ECLIPSE

NO. 8
January
1983

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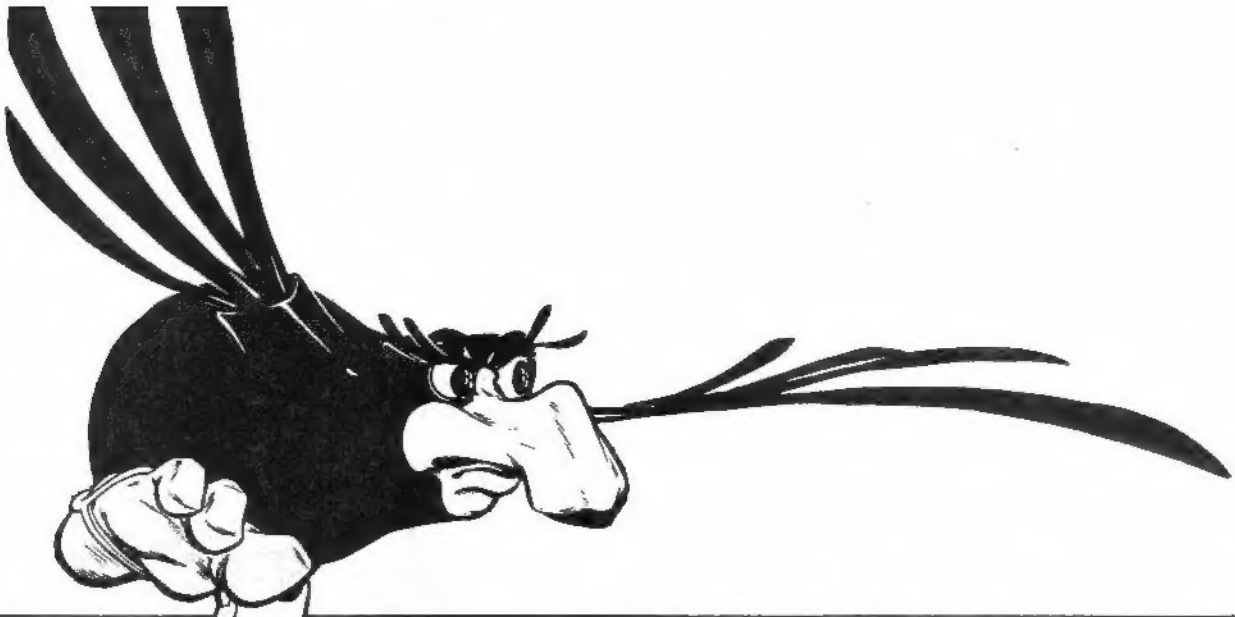

ECLIPSE

VOL. 1, NO. 8
JANUARY 1983

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Contents

Cover
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3
Editorial by Dean Mullaney
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5
The Masked Man: Frankie
by B. C. Boyer
The Masked Man learns about the kingpin of the underworld – the deadly Frankie!

16
Mr. Walk-Down-the-Street
by Larry Rippee
A typical day in the not-so-distant future

17
Mackie Goes Native
by Jim Bourgeois
An allegorical story about self-importance and the nature of belief

27
Ragamuffins:
The Other Side of the Street
by Don McGregor and Gene Colan
Little Randy gets the chance to live the life of one of his heroes

41
Dope: Mollie Gets Amorous
chapter seven: the plot thickens and the addictions get deeper

49
I Am Coyote
by Steve Englehart and Marshall Rogers
Conclusion: the final confrontation between Coyote and the Void

64
Contributors

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EDITORIAL

You'll never see another issue of *Eclipse* like this one again.

Between this issue and the next, there will be a metamorphosis, with *Eclipse Magazine* emerging as an all-color, comic-book sized Baxter book called (tada) *Eclipse Monthly*!

That's right – we're completing our move into all-color comics, and *Eclipse Monthly*, vol. 2, no. 1 will premiere in April as the seventh color title from Eclipse Comics.

How will this move affect the contents of *Eclipse*?

In some ways, a lot, and in other ways, not so much. First, it will be all color in a comic book size and printed on the high quality, white Baxter paper. In addition, *Eclipse Monthly* will be just that – a *monthly*, containing continuing series. You'll get 48 pages of color series for only $2.00 an issue! While I'll certainly miss the wide variety of anthology stories presented in this magazine over the past year and a half, it seems as though the majority of you readers prefer ongoing continuity series. But don't expect the conventional types of strips from Eclipse; we've lined up what we consider to be five of the best storylines around. And here they are:

CAP'N QUICK & THE FOOZLE by Marshall Rogers – we've received so many letters asking for more of The Foozle from *Eclipse* no. 1 that he/she/it returns as the star of a new series . . . with a new sidekick, the dimension hopping Cap'n Quick!

THE MASKED MAN by B. C. Boyer – your mail on this new series has been overwhelming, with some readers calling B.C.'s "everyday" hero "the best new solo character since the 1960s!"

STATIC by Steve Ditko – in the mold of Steve's more heroic creations like Spider-Man and the Blue Beetle, Static also handles some very interesting and important moral questions. You'll meet a new hero, who through a criminally caused accident, gains an incredible link with an experimental suit, and vows to fight the forces of moral decay. It's prime Ditko, and fans of his will be glad to know that he's drawing his art in the same large size as his classic works of the '60s!

DOPE by Sax Rohmer, adapted by Trina Robbins – all you *Dope* fiends out there won't get beat out of the conclusion to Trina's version of this classic adventure story. *Dope* will conclude over the first three issues of *Eclipse Monthly*.

And finally, alternating every other issue will be *RAGAMUFFINS* by Don McGregor and Gene Colan, which is perhaps the most critically acclaimed series of this past year; and another series by Don McGregor which will be announced soon.

But that's all for April. We still have this last black-and-white issue for you to read, and it contains among other things, the swan-song of *Coyote*.

Since this is my last editorial in these parts, I'd like to thank some of the people who've worked closely with me in putting this magazine together. First is my brother and co-publisher Jan. And then there's my old buddy Richard Bruning who was co-Art Director for the first few issues, and who now is the editor of *Nexus* and the other Capital Comics publications. And I can't forget the entire gang up at Continuity Associates – especially Joe D'Esposito, Dennis Francis and Kris Adams – for seeing Marshall Rogers and me through some long, long nights of production work. Plus, all of the other workers at Eclipse: Madelyn Feinberg, James Shannon, E. Lessly (who still doesn't want his first name revealed!), and Alice B. Stockham. Finally, a nod of the head to our typesetters: Chuck Spanyay of Brooklyn Bridge Publications, and Gail Duvall of Duvall Typographers; not to mention the best black-and-white offset printers in comics, Kim and John Preney of Preney Print & Litho.

Well, that's it, folks. Read on and rave on. We'll be back in a few months with color all around us!

Dean Mullaney

IN FULL COLOR!

more...

13 SPIRIT STORIES

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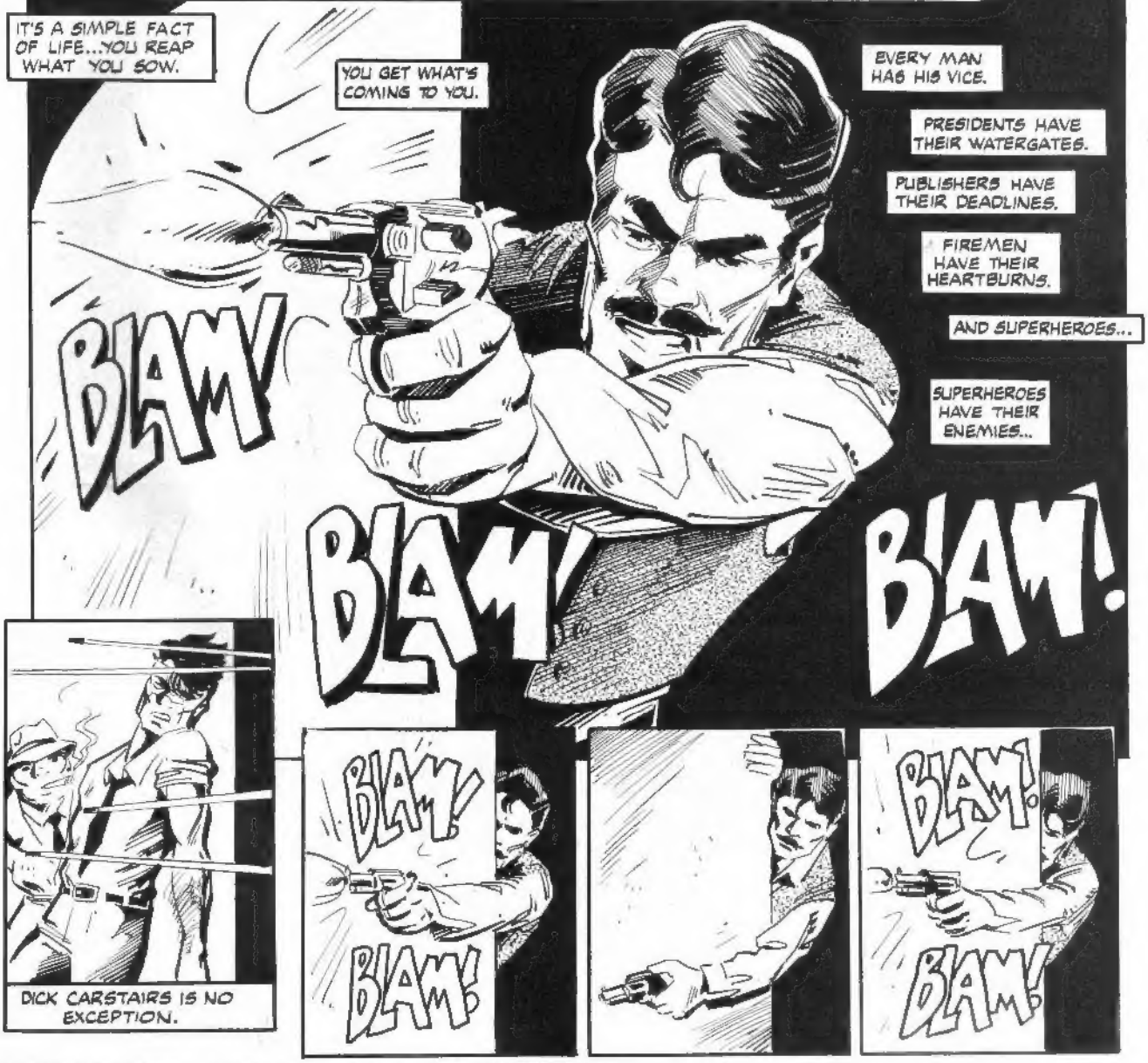
FROM THE WRITINGS OF BARNEY McALLISTER:

The MASKED MAN

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY B.C.BOYER

FRANKIE



LETTERED BY CARRIE McCARTHY

EDITED BY CAT⊕YRONWODE

EVER SINCE HE WAS LABELLED "THE MASKED MAN" BY THE NEWSPAPERS, EVERY SLIMY RAT WHO HAS EVER WIELDED A GUN OR A KNIFE HAS SLITHERED OUT OF THE WOODWORK LOOKING FOR HIM.
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BAM
BLAM
IN THE UNDERWORLD THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF...
...FROM DOPE SMUGGLING AND GUN DEALING TO BEATING UP YOUR PARENTS.
BUT NOW THERE'S A NEW HORIZON ...A NEW WAY IN WHICH TO REAP PRAISE AND ADORATION FROM YOUR FELLOW HOODLUMS.
RUB OUT THE MASKED MAN.
IF YOU GET CAUGHT, YOU CAN ALWAYS PLEAD INSANITY.
UPON RELEASE, YOU CAN WRITE A BOOK AND APPEAR ON ALL THE TALK SHOWS.
AFTER THE MILLIONS COME IN FROM THE RIGHTS YOU'VE SOLD TO HOLLYWOOD YOU'LL BE SET FOR LIFE.
NOT BAD...
FOR A LITTLE MURDER.

THAT'S WHAT MY FRIEND, DICK CARSTAIRS, IS UP AGAINST. NO ONE KNOWS THAT HE IS IN ACTUALITY "THE MASKED MAN," BUT AS SOON AS HE PUTS THAT MASK ON, HE'S FAIR GAME FOR EVERY NOTORIETY-MINDED THUG IN TOWN.
OF COURSE, MOST OF THESE TWO BIT TOUGHS AREN'T A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR DICK. HE'LL NEVER ADMIT IT, BUT I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT IT'S NOT MERELY HIS POLICE TRAINING AS A DETECTIVE WHICH HAS HELPED HIM FIGHT THE FREE-LANCE KILLERS OFF. THERE'S ALSO A...WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT AN UNRELEASED FIRE IN HIS SOUL THAT DRIVES HIM ONWARD AND CARRIES HIM ABOVE SUCH CHALLENGES.
SPLAT!
THAT'S WHY EVERY GANGSTER WHO HAS EVER LIVED FALLS BEFORE THE MASKED MAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S HIS DETERMINED BROW, HIS SUPPRESSED RAGE OR HIS GLISTENING EYES THAT MAKE HIM SO AWESOME.
THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT EVERY HOOD WHO'S TACKLED HIM HAS SUCCUMBED TO HIS MIGHT.

EVERYONE...
EXCEPT FRANKIE.
BAM!
"FRANKIE"...WHAT A NAME! IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO DO THE MAN JUSTICE.
I MEAN, HERE'S A RUTHLESS, BLOOD-THIRSTY BOSSMAN IN CHARGE OF ONE OF THE TOP FAMILIES OF ORGANIZED CRIME NAMED...FRANKIE.
I COULD UNDERSTAND BIG FRANK, FRANK THE KINGPIN OR EVEN DR. DEATH...BUT FRANKIE?
NEXT WE'LL HAVE SOME TERRORIST LEADER OF A FASCIST COUNTRY NAMED "BERNIE".
OH WELL. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THE NAME IS STILL THERE, ALONG WITH THE REPUTATION.
BAM
POW

DICK FIRST HEARD ABOUT FRANKIE WHILE HE WAS POUNDING OUT A COCAINE DEALER. JUST BEFORE THE DEALER TURNED INTO PULP, HE SAID, "FRANKIE WILL GET YOU FOR THIS!" DICK DIDN'T CARE. HE JUST SMILED.

THE NEXT TIME FRANKIE'S NAME CAME UP, WE WERE IN HOT PURSUIT OF A CAR-THEFT RACKET.

AS THE CROOKS MELTED BEFORE THE MASKED MAN'S HEATED RAGE AND THRASHING ARMS, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED...

THE "HOT WHEELS" DEALERS STARTED BEGGING FOR MERCY...

AND IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE TERRIBLE TOLL DICK WAS TAKING UPON THEM.

"PLEASE, MR. MASKED MAN," ONE OF THEM WHIMPERED, "PLEASE CALL THE POLICE. HAVE THEM TAKE US IN RIGHT AWAY!"

ENTRANCE

WHY?"

"BECAUSE IF FRANKIE EVER FINDS OUT YOU BROKE UP OUR RACKET, HE'LL.., HE'LL..."

THE MAN DIED WHERE HE STOOD, NO DOUBT FROM FEAR OF SOME UNSPEAKABLE TORTURE LOOMING IN HIS FUTURE.
IT WAS THEN WE DEC DED TO LOOK UP THIS... FRANKIE.
LEAVING HIS MASK AT HOME, DICK D.SGUISED HIMSELF AS A DOWN-AND-OUT CON ARTIST, AND I, HIS FAITHFUL COMPANION, WAS NOT FAR BEHIND.
WE VIS.TED ALL THE LOCAL HANGOUTS, LOOKING FOR LEADS.

FINALLY, WE ENDED UP AT THE BLARNEY STONE BAR. WE KNEW IT WAS A CLASSY JOINT WHEN WE SAW THE E GHT-FOOT BOUNCER BLOCKING THE DOORWAY. I STOOD A LITTLE TALLER THAN HIS KNEECAPS.
HIS LOWER NG BROW AND HIS FIERY EYES STOPPED US IN OUR TRACKS. HIS TREE-TRUNK ARMS BLOCKED THE ENTRANCE.
DICK COULD'VE CUT HIM DOWN WITH EASE, BUT THAT WASN'T NESSESSARY. DICK WAS RAISED ON THE EAST SIDE; HE KNOWS THE INS AND OUTS OF ALL THE FILTH AND SCUM WHO HANG AROUND THESE JOINTS; HE KNOWS WHAT MAKES THEM TICK.
5921

UPON MEETING SUCH PEOPLE, HE CALLS ON ALL HIS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE...ALL HIS VAST KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNDERWORLD. HE KNOWS THEIR LANGUAGE PERFECTLY.

"WHO ARE YOU?" THE BOUNCER BELLOWED
"I'M A DEGENERATE," MUTTERED DICK
"OH...OK." THE GIANT LIFTED HIS ARMS.LOOKING DOWN BELOW HIS BELT HE SAW ME AND SAID, "WHAT ABOUT HIM?"
DICK BECKONED WITH HIS FINGER. THE GIANT LEANED OVER.
"HE'S MY BODY GUARD," DICK WHISPERED.
"AW, C'MON.'
'YEAH. REMEMBER BRUCE LEE?"
"YEAH,'
"DIED FROM DISLOCATED KNEE CAPS."
'GASP"

THE BOUNCER MOVED BACK...HIS KNEES WOBBLING. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SNARLED AT HIM. HE HAD TO WAIT 'TIL MORNING TO TAKE HIS PANTS TO THE CLEANERS.

AN HOUR LATER WE WERE WELL INTO SOME POKER AND WELL OUT OF A HUNDRED FORTY BUCKS. IT DIDN'T MATTER. WE WERE GETTING WHAT WE CAME FOR.

"YEAH," BELLOWED A GUY WITH A LARGE CHIN, "HENRY CAME UP THROUGH CHICAGO. HE'S ONE HECK OF A PIECE MAKER. TOKES 'EM AS GOOD AS HE MAKES 'EM, TOO. HE SOLD ME OL' BETSY HERE." HE PULLS OUT A MAGNUM.

"YEAH?" SNORTED ANOTHER WITH AN ACE OF SPADES IN HIS SOCK, "WELL GOOD OL' CHARLIE CAME UP THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION A LOT FASTER!"

"WHAT ABOUT FRANKIE?" DICK ASKED, "HOW'D HE COME UP?"

WRONG MOVE.

EVERYONE STARED AT HIM. EYES ACCUSED WHILE HANDS REACHED UNDER COATS. BACK TO PLAN-A.

"I'M A DEGENERATE." IT DIDN'T WORK. COAT LAPELS PARTED AND HOLSTERS CREAKED.

I'M A DEGENERATE...FROM CLEVELAND."

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM

"OH...OK.' SAID THE DEALER, "HE'S FROM CLEVELAND."

"YA MEAN YA NEVER HEARD ABOUT *FRANKIE?*" GASPED THE MAN WITH THE CHEATING BOCK.
NO," SA.D DICK.

PRETTY SOON THEY WERE VOLUNTEERING NFORMATION.
EACH TOLD HIS OWN STORY, LOST IN TERROR OF WHATEVER ASPECT OF THE MAN HE HIMSELF HAD EXPERIENCED.
"MEAN? NAW,' SAID BIG CHIN, 'MEAN DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HIM.'"
FRANKIE'S NOT LIKE ANY OTHER MOB BOSS. SAID THE DEALER "HE JUMPS RIGHT INTO THE ACTION.'
"NO ONE CAN PIN HIM DOWN. NO ONE.' HE'S BIG, TOUGH AND FAST!"
'HE COMES FROM THE RING SO HE KNOWS HOW TO PACK A GOOD ONE.'"

"YOU GUYS GOT IT ALL WRONG," SAID CHEATING SOCKS. "IT'S HIS EYES. I HATE HIS EYES. THEY'RE LIKE RAIN. THEY COVER YOU WITH SWEAT!" CORNY, BUT EFFECTIVE.

"NO," SAID THE DEALER. "WHEN HE LOWERS HIS HEAD AND CLENCHES HIS TEETH, THAT'S WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S OVER."

"THAT'S NOTHIN'." HIS HANDS ARE THE WORST. HE LOVES TO KILL WITH HIS HANDS!"

'YEAH,' SAID AN OLD GUY SITTING ALONE AGAINST THE WALL, 'WIT' HIS BARE HANDS." HE WAS LOOKING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE...ADRIFT IN A BAD MEMORY, "I LOST MY BROTHER THAT WAY. FRANKIE'S HAND PRINTS WERE IN HIS NECK."

AND SO THEY CONTINUED...

ARRGH!

...RELIVING THE HORROR, SPILLING EVERYTHING THEY KNEW ABOUT THE MAN...

BAM!!

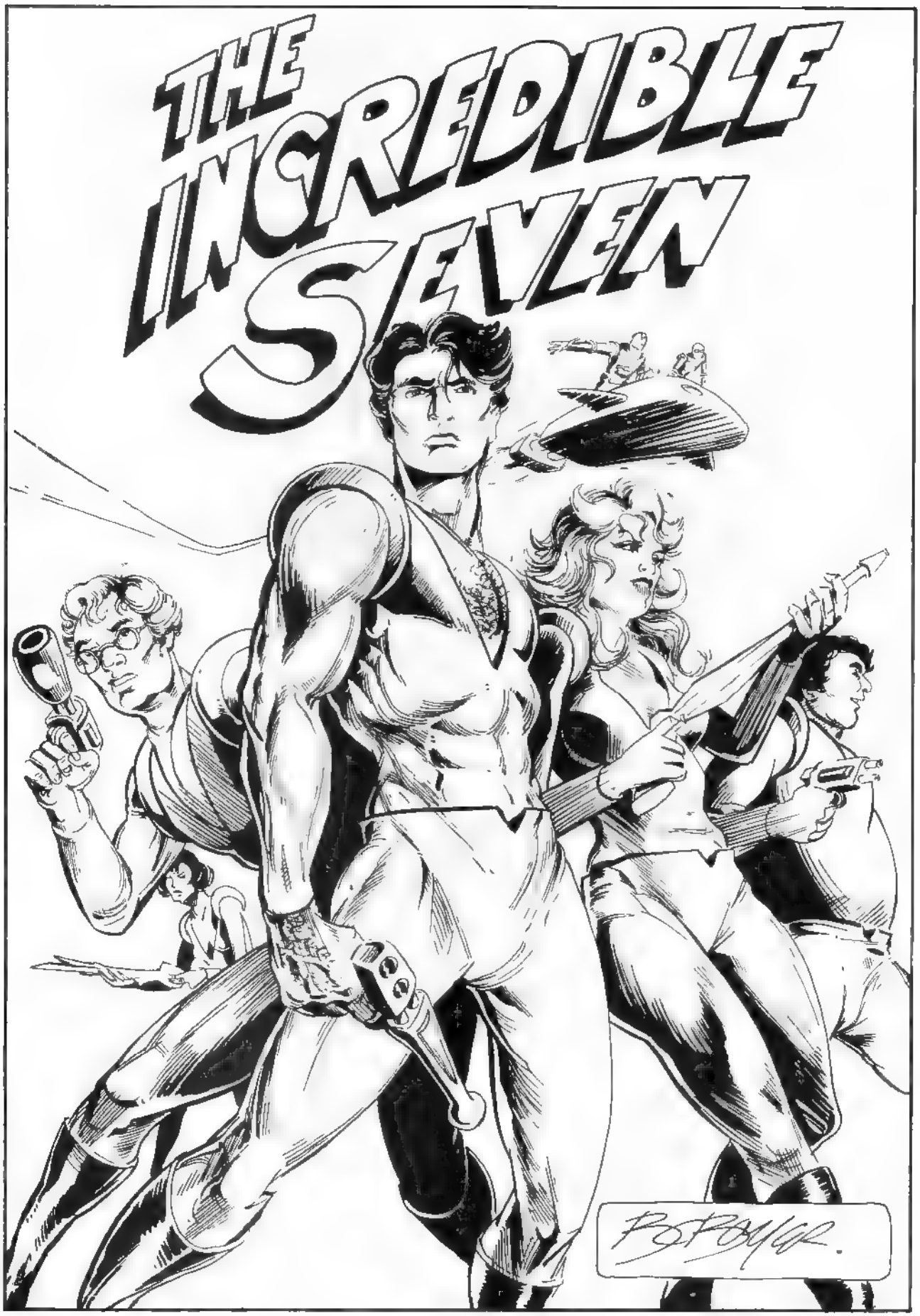
...DESCRIBING WHAT THEY HAD HOPED WAS FORGOTTEN...

...AND WHAT THEY KNEW COULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

W

SO WE LISTENED...

AFTER THAT WE VISITED A FEW MORE DIVES AND AFTER-HOUR CLUBS, AND WE KEPT ON ASKING QUESTIONS. BY THE TIME WE'D HIT ALL THE BARS, POOLHALLS, ALLYS AND GUTTERS IN TOWN WE'D LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE MAN CALLED FRANKIE.
FUNNY THING, THOUGH...TO THIS DAY WE STILL HAVEN'T MET HIM—
—JUST SOME OF HIS HIRED BOYS.
BUT SOMEHOW I THINK THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF TIMES...
WHEN OUR PATHS...
HAVE CROSSED
BY THE WAY, NAME'S BARNEY McALLISTER. I'M THE SHORT ONE.
BC.



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by B.C. Boyer - *the new series starting in SABRE no.4*

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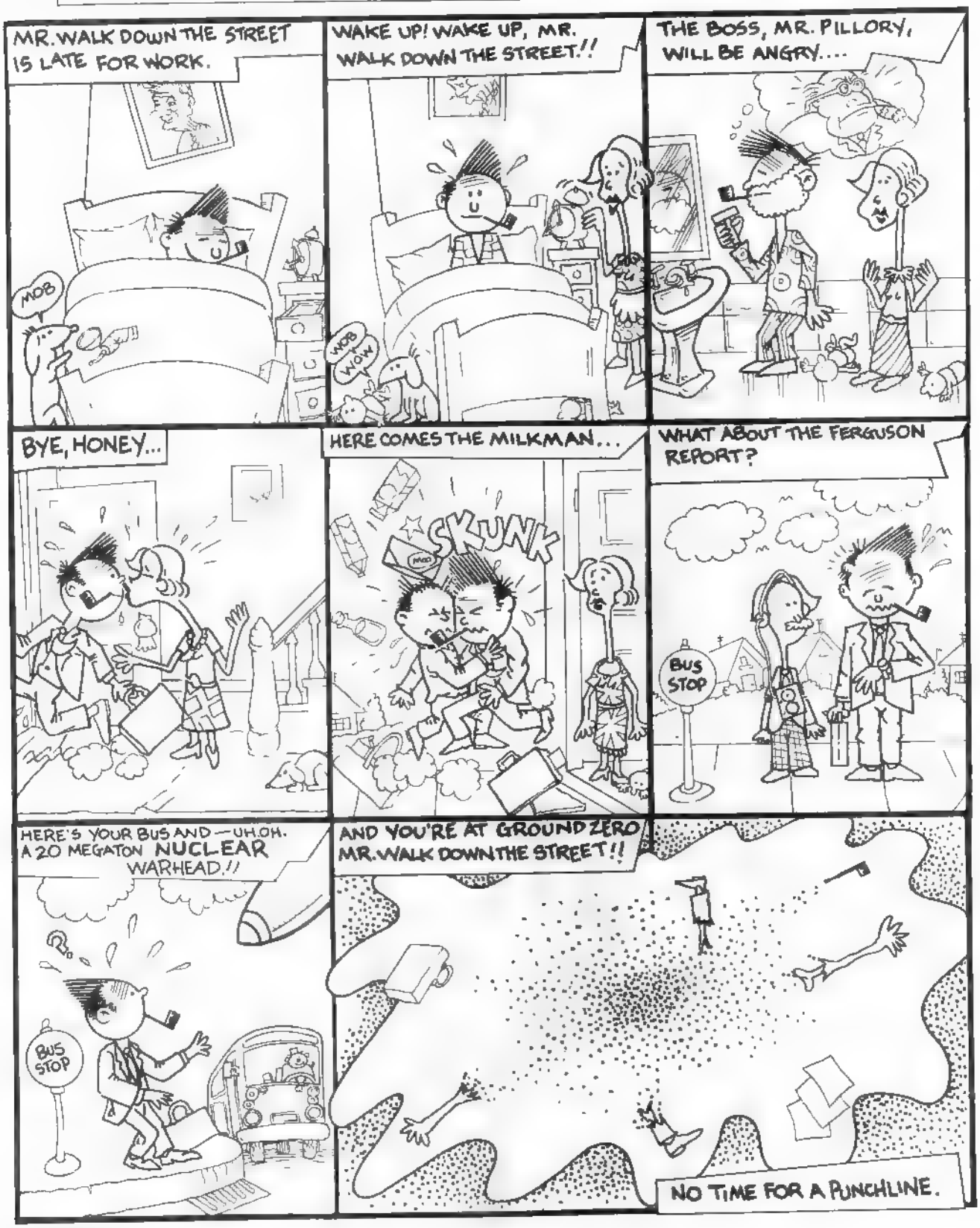
MR. WALK DOWN THE STREET

HE'S A CARTOON CHARACTER !!

by RIPPee c1982

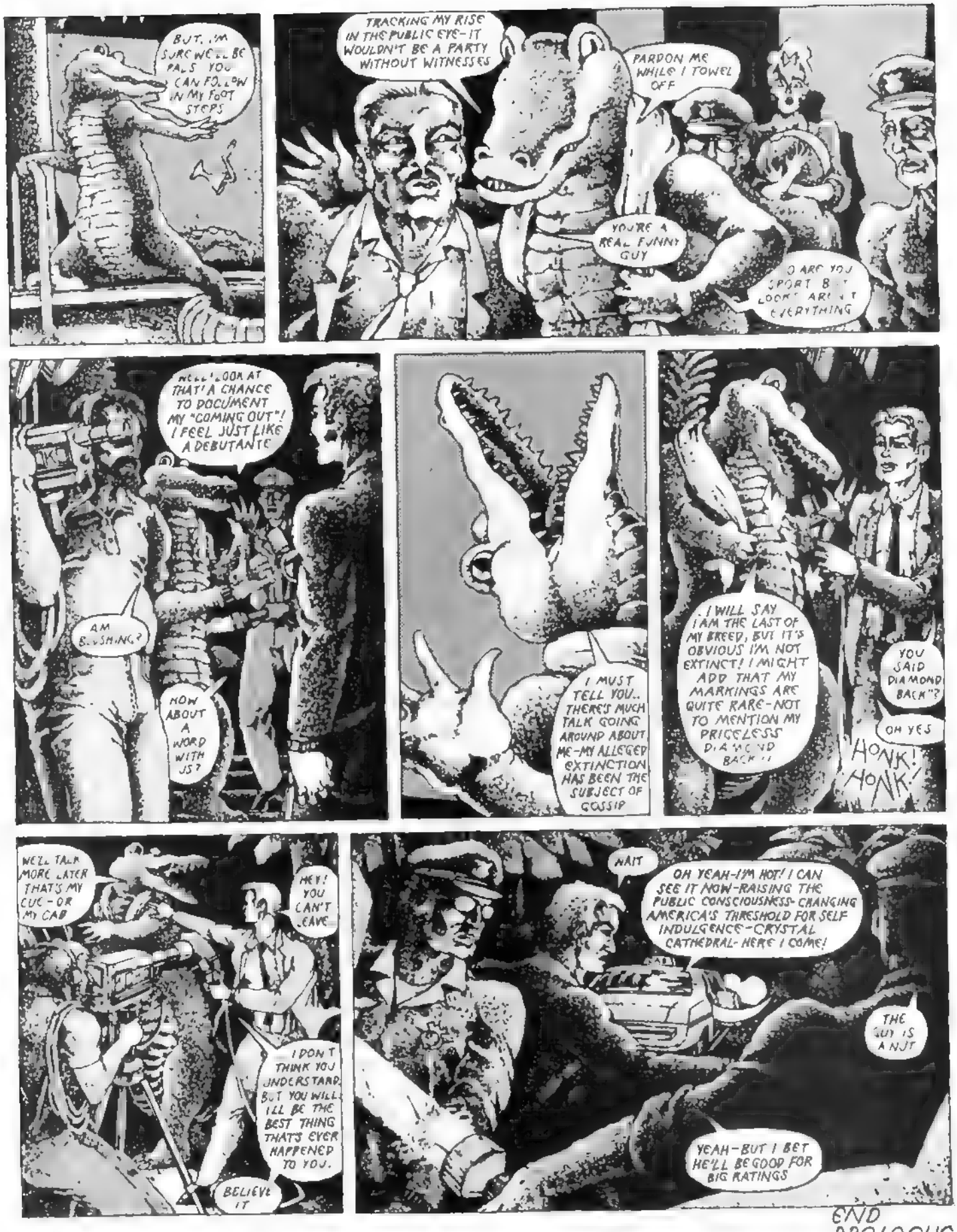

MR. WALK DOWN THE STREET IS LATE FOR WORK.
MOB
WAKE UP! WAKE UP, MR. WALK DOWN THE STREET!!
MOB WOW
THE BOSS, MR. PILLORY, WILL BE ANGRY....
BYE, HONEY...
HERE COMES THE MILKMAN...
SKUNK
MOB
WHAT ABOUT THE FERGUSON REPORT?
BUS STOP
HERE'S YOUR BUS AND—UH-OH. A 20 MEGATON NUCLEAR WARHEAD!!
BUS STOP
AND YOU'RE AT GROUND ZERO MR. WALK DOWN THE STREET!!
NO TIME FOR A PUNCHLINE.

THERE'S AN ALLIGATOR IN MY POOL!!!

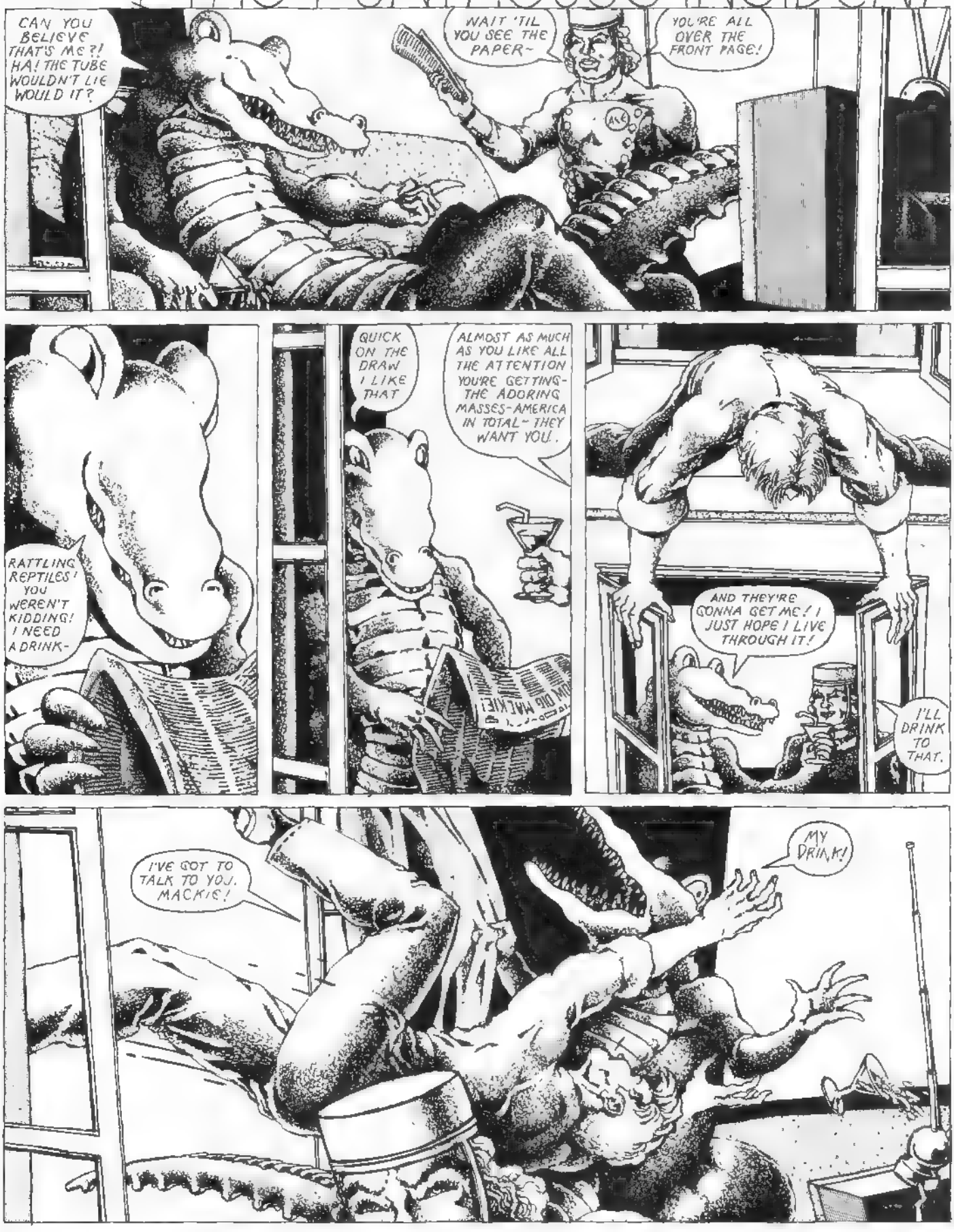
YEAH- I KNOW IF HE'S STILL THERE WE'LL GET HIM.
IT WAS HORRIBLE! I'LL NEVER SWIM AT NIGHT AGAIN!
TRY TO CALM YOURSELF. RELAX
BUT HE TRIED TO SEDUCE ME!
RIGHT
LIKE I SAID... IF HE'S STILL THERE, WE'VE GOT HIM... NO PROBLEM.

YOU MEN SCOUT AROUND TOWARDS THE REAR- WE'LL CLOSE IN ON THE POOL AND SURROUND IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS?
I THINK SHE'S A NUT!

O.K.- EVERYBODY INTO THE POOL!
HEY- YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS! I MAY BE THICK SKINNED BUT NOBODY PIMPS ME!


BUT, I'M SURE WE'LL BE PALS YOU CAN FOLLOW IN MY FOOT STEPS
TRACKING MY RISE IN THE PUBLIC EYE- IT WOULDN'T BE A PARTY WITHOUT WITNESSES
PARDON ME WHILE I TOWEL OFF
YOU'RE A REAL FUNNY GUY
O ARE YOU SPORT BUT LOOK ARE IT EVERYTHING
WELL LOOK AT THAT! A CHANCE TO DOCUMENT MY "COMING OUT"! I FEEL JUST LIKE A DEBUTANTE
AM I RUSHING?
HOW ABOUT A WORD WITH US?
I MUST TELL YOU.. THERE'S MUCH TALK GOING AROUND ABOUT ME-MY ALLEGED EXTINCTION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF GOSSIP
I WILL SAY I AM THE LAST OF MY BREED, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS I'M NOT EXTINCT! I MIGHT ADD THAT MY MARKINGS ARE QUITE RARE- NOT TO MENTION MY PRICELESS DIAMOND BACK!!
YOU SAID DIAMOND BACK"?
OH YES
HONK! HONK!
WE'LL TALK MORE LATER THAT'S MY CUE - OR MY CAB
HEY! YOU CAN'T LEAVE
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU WILL ALL BE THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU.
BELIEVE IT
WAIT
OH YEAH-I'M HOT! I CAN SEE IT NOW-RAISING THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS- CHANGING AMERICA'S THRESHOLD FOR SELF INDULGENCE- CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL- HERE I COME!
THE GUY IS A NUT
YEAH-BUT I BET HE'LL BE GOOD FOR BIG RATINGS
END PROLOGUE.

CHAPTER 1: THE PENTHOUSE INCIDENT


CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT'S ME?! HA! THE TUBE WOULDN'T LIE WOULD IT?
WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE THE PAPER~
YOU'RE ALL OVER THE FRONT PAGE!
RATTLING REPTILES! YOU WEREN'T KIDDING! I NEED A DRINK-
QUICK ON THE DRAW I LIKE THAT
ALMOST AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE ALL THE ATTENTION YOU'RE GETTING- THE ADORING MASSES-AMERICA IN TOTAL~ THEY WANT YOU.
AND THEY'RE GONNA GET ME! I JUST HOPE I LIVE THROUGH IT!
I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU, MACKIE!
MY DRINK!

KRAP!!!
CALL THE HOUSE DICK, ACE...
HEAL ME!
LET ME TOUCH YOUR DIAMOND BACK! HEAL ME!
HEAL YOURSELF!
HEAL ME!
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM UP HERE..
I TOUCHED IT..
TOUCHED IT.
OOOHHHH!
BUDDY-SOMEBODY'S BEEN TOUCHING YOUR HEAD WITH A BALLBAT!
I'M HEALED!
YOU ARE NOT! NOW-SHUT UP OR I'LL MAKE YOU SIT IN THE CLOSET!
IT'S A MIRACLE
TRULY-A MIRACLE.
I'M WARNING YOU.
MINUTES PASS...
IF HE'S A MENACE-I'M A MONKEY!
YOU'RE THE MONKEY THAT MISSED ALL THE ACTION!
HEALED.

END OF CHAPTER ONE

CHAPTER 2: TIME • MARCHES • ON OR RED • LETTER • DAYS!

MACKIE BECOMES A FIXTURE IN AMERICA'S HEADLINES!
HERALD SUN
HEALED!
MACKIE DENIES
MIRACLE! NO DICE!!
ACE BECOMES MACKIE'S PERSONAL VALET.
I'M NOT INTO BESTIALITY- BUT-I DIG THE GUY!
A MAN OF NO ILLUSIONS- A KINDRED SPIRIT - I'LL DRINK TO THAT!
MACKIE UPSTAGES NEIL DIAMOND AT A PRESS CONFERENCE!
THAT GUY IS A DIAMOND IN NAME ONLY!
PLEASE LET MR DIAMOND THROUGH. PLEASE-
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
GOING UP!
LICENSING OFFERS POUR IN... EVERYBODY WANTS A PIECE.
HE WANTED ME TO HOST THE GRAND OPENING OF A USED CAR LOT!
YOU TURNED HIM DOWN- RIGHT?
I TOLD HIM TO PISS ON A POLE AND SLIDE DOWN IT!
BUT- EVEN MACKIE FALLS TO THE TEMPTATION OF T-SHIRT MERCHANDISING!
I DIDN'T AUTHORIZE THIS STUFF! PLEASE DON'T THINK THIS POPULIST PAN FLASHING IS IMPORTANT TO YOURS TRULY!
MY BAR TAB IS ANOTHER MATTER!
DARE TO BE RARE
MACKIE AGREES TO APPEAR ON A SEGMENT OF THE DONAHUE SHOW WITH OTHER "HEALERS."
I NEVER SAID I WAS A HEALER!
YOU AREN'T THE HEALER- BUT YOU ARE THE VESSEL! YOU CAN'T FORSAKE THE CALL!
WHAT CALL?! LAST CALL?
NOW- BACK UP AND LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
AUGUST
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
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SEPTEMBER
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OCTOBER
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NOVEMBER
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DECEMBER
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JANUARY
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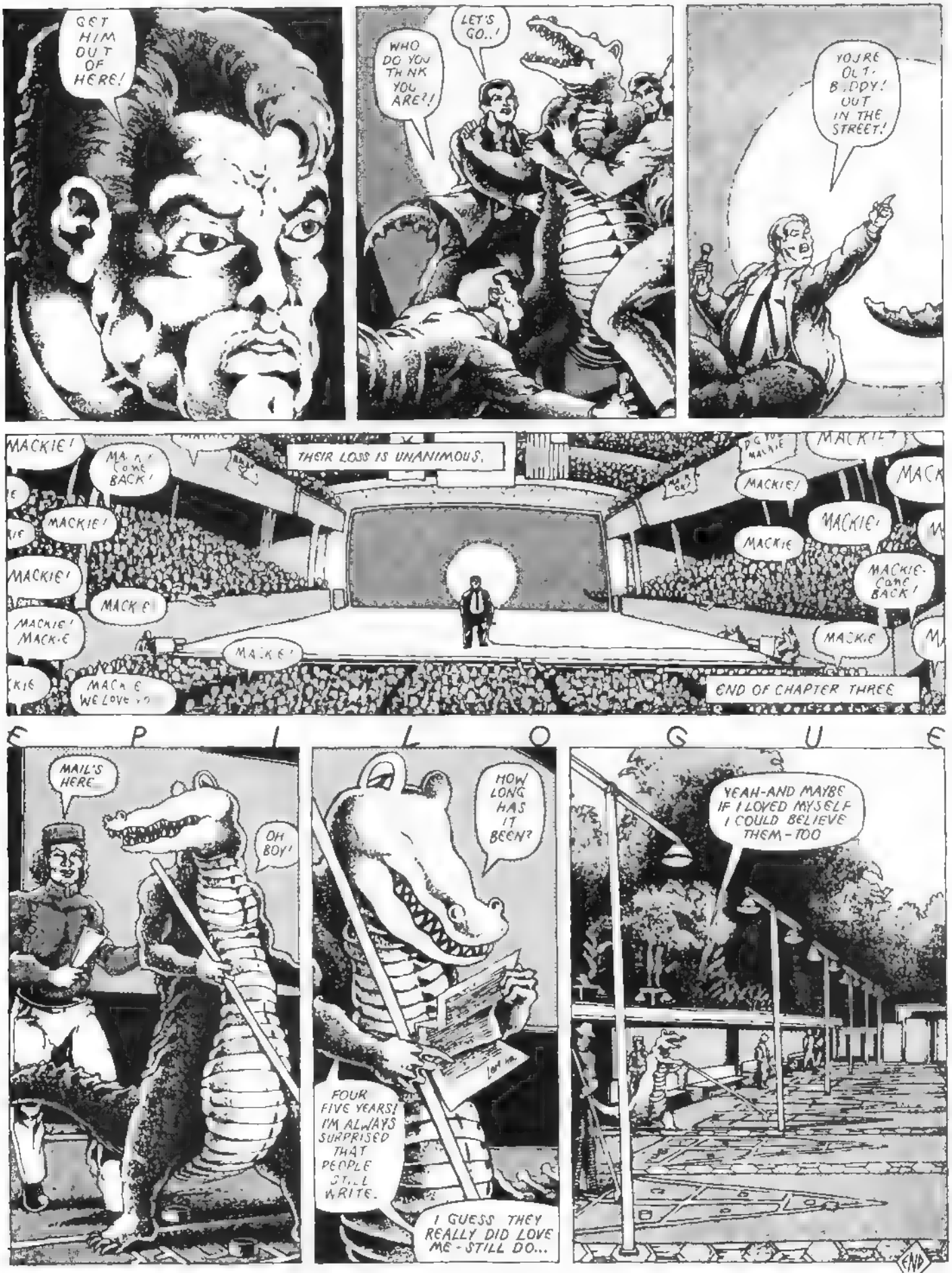
30 31
THE CALL TO SERVE IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY..
RIGHT MISTER.
... MAYBE IT'S THE WARMTH OF THE WINE - BUT- YOUR EYES LOOK JUST LIKE MY OLD MAN'S
THE WINE'S WARMTH OR MINE, MACK?
MR. STOHL ("CALL ME JACK") INVITES MACKIE TO HIS COUNTRY ESTATE SO MACK CAN "GATHER HIMSELF" AND "LISTEN FOR A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE."
JACK IS HIP TO MACKIE'S RISING VISIBILITY AND ASKS HIM TO JOIN HIS EXPANDING "MEDIA MINISTRY."
HE'S SENSITIVE TO MY BAR TAB-TOO!
GOING UP?
AND THE TOURING GOES ON.
COVER MY BACK-ACE! THEY'RE PEELING MY SCALES!
THE WEEKS OF TOURING WEAR HARD ON MACKIE.
MACKIE RECIEVES AN HONORARY DEGREE FOR HIS HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTION...
GOOD JOB SIR!
IT'S JUST A PIECE OF PAPER! I'D PREFER A SIX-PACK!
FUNNY- THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE KIND OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION I THOUGHT I COULD GROOVE ON..
HEAL ME!
HEAL ME!
HEAL ME!
HEAL ME!
HEAL ME!
HEAL
FINALLY
YEAH-THIS IS THE BIG TIME.. YOU WON'T CATCH ME SOBER AT THIS ONE!
CK STOHL and MACKIE
MINISTRY EXPLO!
at the SUPERDOME
JAN. 24 8:00 P.M.
ONE NITE ONLY!
NEW ORLEANS
TICKETS $12.50
END OF CHAPTER TWO

CHAPTER 3: MY LITTLE MARTYR!!!

MACKIE'S PRIVATE SUITE... BACKSTAGE AT THE SUPERDOME
I'M THROUGH WAGGING MY TAIL ON COMMAND! I CAN'T GO OUT THERE- I CAN'T PLAY THIS GARBAGE ANYMORE!
IT'S UP TO YOU, MACKIE.
YOU'RE THE BOSS..
KNOCK KNOCK
COMING..
FIVE MINUTES TO SHOW TIME- MACK...
HEY! WHAT IS THIS..?! YOU'RE NOT EVEN DRY YET!
I WON'T GO- I WON'T DO IT!
YOU'LL GO AND YOU'LL LIKE IT- YOU BIG BABY!
YOU BIG PHONY!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF- MACK!
FIVE MINUTES-
WHAM!
SCUM-BAG!
GOD IN HEAVEN! WHY DID I EVER SIGN ON WITH THAT CHARLATAN?!
WHO SAID YOU CAN'T BULLSHIT A BULLSHITTER?!
...AND I THOUGHT I WAS THE COLD-BLOODED ONE!!!
SLASH
TRY COUNTING TO A HUNDRED
MAYBE A THOUSAND..
FIVE MINUTES LATER.

MACKIE!
WE LOVE YOU
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
WE LOVE YOU!
MACKIE
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENI
THOUSANDS ANSWER
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY- A RECKONING OF SORTS
I'LL START WITH THIS...
"DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT- BUT-TEST THE SPIRITS.."
WELL-I'VE TESTED MYSELF AND FALLEN SHORT..
I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM..
I CAN'T BE WHO YOU THINK I AM...
NOW-HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
STAY OUT OF THIS- YOU WON'T STOP ME!
I DON'T HAVE TO STOP YOU- YOU SIGNED A CONTRACT!
MY SIGNATURE MAKES ME A PROPHET? A HEALER?!
YOUR SIGNATURE MAKES YOU MINE!
OOF!
GET AWAY- GET AWAY FROM ME!


GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
LET'S GO..!
YOU'RE OLD, BUDDY! OUT IN THE STREET!
MACKIE!
MACKIE! COME BACK!
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
MACKIE!
MACKIE
MACKIE!
MACKIE
MACKIE! COME BACK!
MACKIE
MACKIE!
MACKIE! MACKIE
MACKIE!
MACKIE
WE LOVE YOU
THEIR LOSS IS UNANIMOUS.
END OF CHAPTER THREE
EPILOGUE
MAIL'S HERE
OH BOY!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
FOUR FIVE YEARS! I'M ALWAYS SURPRISED THAT PEOPLE STILL WRITE.
I GUESS THEY REALLY DID LOVE ME - STILL DO...
YEAH-AND MAYBE IF I LOVED MYSELF I COULD BELIEVE THEM - TOO
END

THE MAKING OF THE OMEGA MEN

IN A UNIQUE INSIDE-THE-INDUSTRY FORUM WHERE THE PROS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!

COMICS INTERVIEW #1
THERE IS PROBABLY MORE CREATIVE FREEDOM TO DO SERIOUS, PERSONAL STUFF IN COMICS NOW THAN IN TELEVISION OR EVEN FEATURE FILMS. - STEVE GERBER
THE X-MEN WAS A BOOK I HAD NO INTEREST IN -TERRY AUSTIN
I GOT FIRED BY CBS, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO MARVEL, THEY WERE LOSING $2,000,000 A YEAR-- IT WAS A DISASTER, A TOTAL DISASTER. THE FIRST THING I HAD TO DO WAS STOP THE BLEEDING... --JIM GALTON, PRESIDENT OF MARVEL COMICS.
ONE OF MY OBJECTIVES IS TO BRING BACK CHANGE IN COMICS. THE OMEGA MEN ARE FIGHTING A BATTLE SO THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES. -- ROGER SLIFER
TAKE DAREDEVIL -- IT'S LIKE A BALLET, IT'S BEAUTIFUL VIOLENCE NOT IN OMEGA MEN. --KEITH GIFFEN
I ONCE FOUND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE A REAL FLOP IN LIFE. TO MAKE MONEY TO BUY FUNNY BOOKS, I WAS A TRASHMAN ON WEEKENDS. I HEARD SOME MOTHER SAY TO HER KID, "LOOK, IF YOU DON'T STUDY HARD, THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU!" -- SCOTT SHAW!

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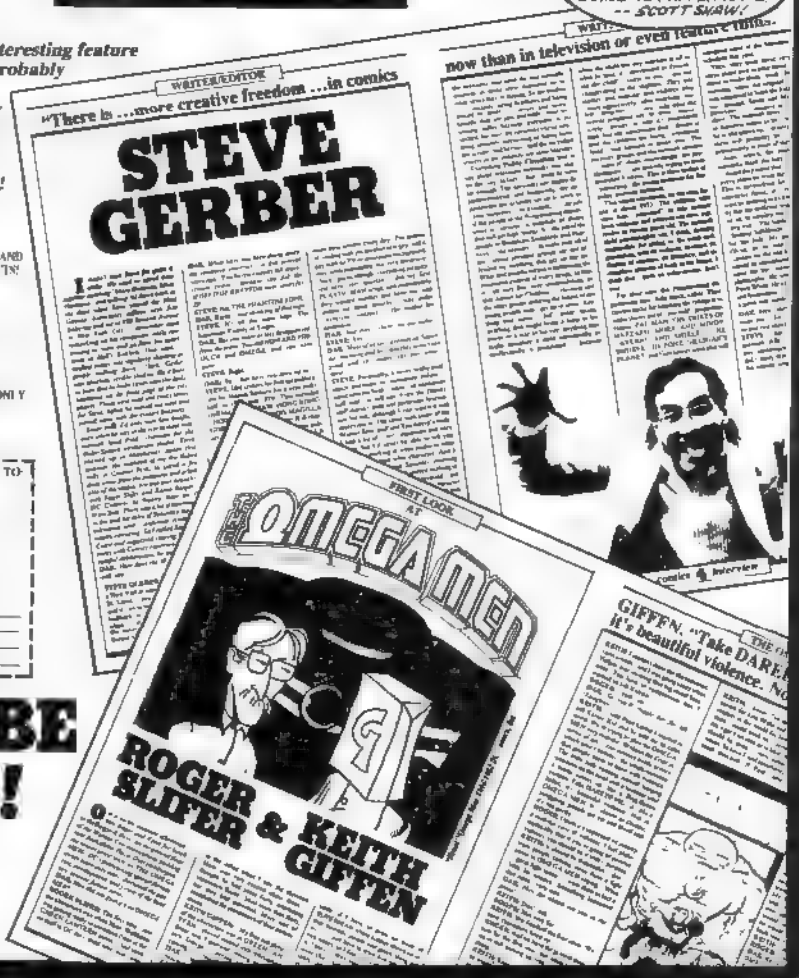

WRITER/EDITOR
"There is ...more creative freedom ...in comics
STEVE GERBER
now than in television or even feature films.
FIRST LOOK AT
THE OMEGA MEN
ROGER SLIFER & KEITH GIFFEN
GIFFEN, "Take DARE
It's beautiful violence. No

RAGAMUFFINS

Don McGregor - Creator/Writer
Gene Colan - Artist
Cody - Letterer

The Other Side of the Street

In 1051 Saturday mornings were very important courses in life and death with lessons that lingered through the week.

It was on Saturday mornings when the cliffhangers (the old-time serials of the 30s and 40s) were rerun on the new-born medium called television for a whole new generation of ragamuffins

Television came into the American home like an invading army. Hopalong Cassidy. Howdy Doody. Spy Smasher. Zorro and the Copperhead led the advance troops.

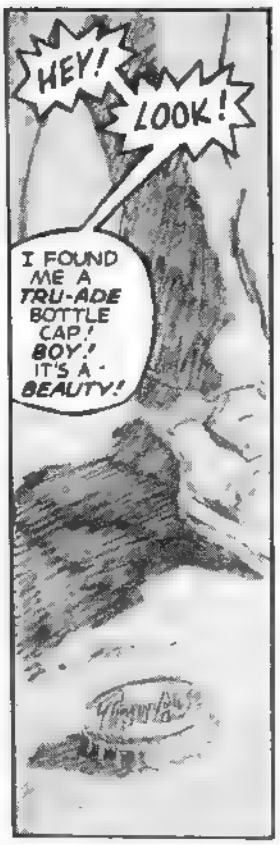
The hero always outwitted Death... whatever Death was. Ragamuffins didn't know much about Death. Death was, if anything, a cliff-hanger device at the end of each chapter that could be cheated.

When it was 1051 and you were a ragamuffin you could believe in that sort of thing... that you could make a fool out of Death.

OH DON'T THE BOYS MAKE THE DARLINGEST DAFFODILS ?
DON'T LET THEM FOOL YOU, SISTER ERNESTINE. UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODIL CLOTHING, THEY'RE STILL LITTLE MONSTERS!
SISTER MARYBETH DONE THIS ON PURPOSE! DRESSING US LIKE YUCHHY DAFFODILS. SHE'S A RAT TORTURER!

CHILDREN! LISTEN UP!
SINCE YOU'VE DONE SO WELL *REHEARSING* FOR THE *SPRING FESTIVAL*, WE ARE GOING TO DISMISS YOU AN HOUR EARLY.
MAKE SURE YOU *MARCH* STRAIGHT HOME.
JEEPERS!
THIS IS GREAAAT!
Shhh
YA BETTER NOT LOOK SO *HAPPY* 'TIL WE GET OUT'VE SIGHT OF THE *JAILER*.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY LET US OUT LIKE THAT, CAN YOU? I EXPECTED THE SISTER TO SAY SOMETHING *ROTTEN* LIKE SHE *ALWAYS* DOES.
SO WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, RANDY?
WHATTA YA MEAN?
YOU AIN'T GOIN' HOME, ARE YA?


HEY! LOOK!
I FOUND ME A *TRU-ADE* BOTTLE CAP! *BOY!* IT'S A *BEAUTY!*

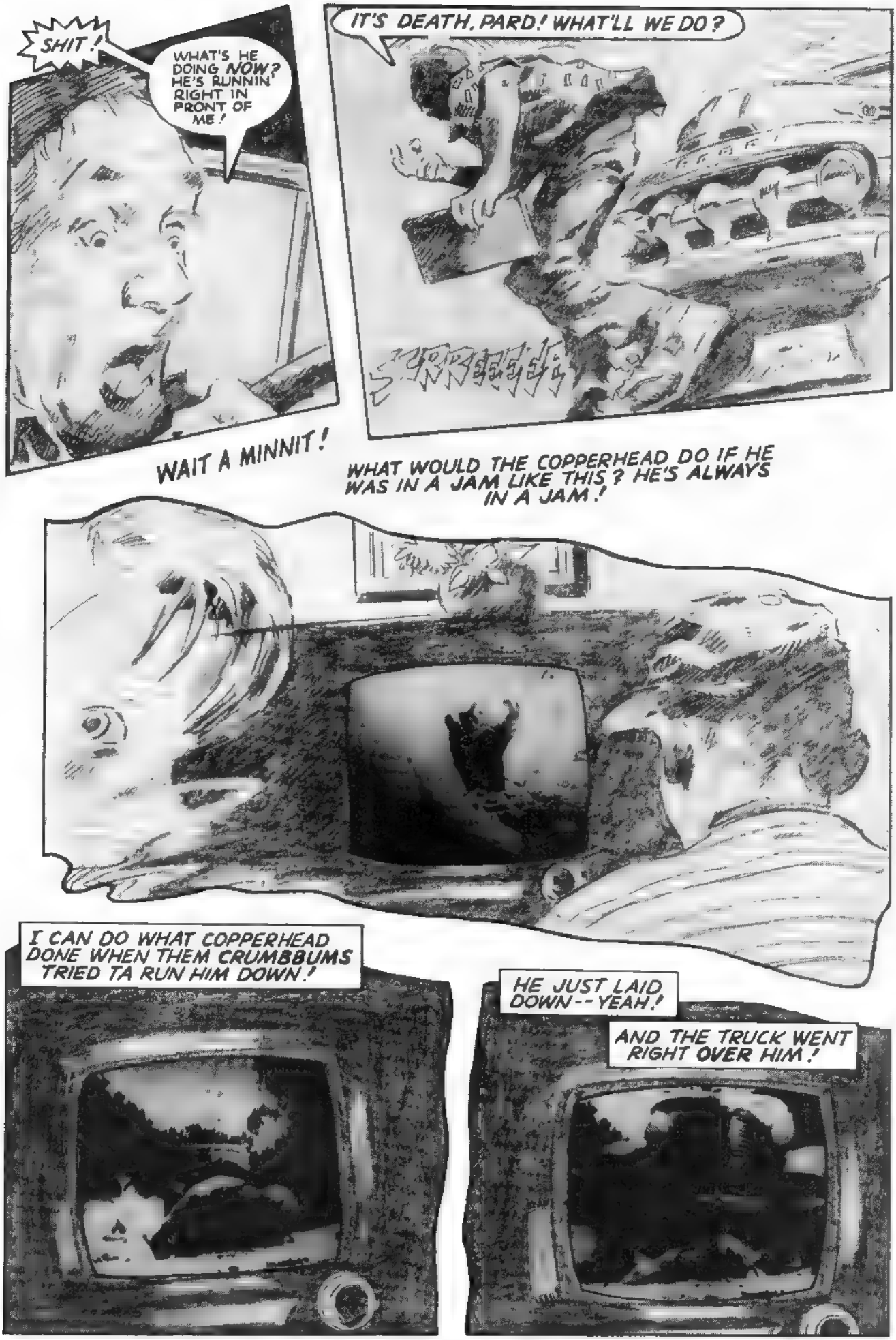
JEEZ, I DON'T SEE WHAT'CHA GET SO *LOONEYTOONS* ABOUT SOME RUSTY OLD BOTTLECAP!
ANYHOW, Y'KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA DO? ONE THING I *AIN'T* DO.N' IS GOIN' HOME!
THIS CAP'S NOT *RUSTY*.

I'M GONNA HAVE ME A GOOD TIME AN'MY MA'LL NEVER KNOW. SHE DON'T 'SPECT ME HOME FOR AN HOUR.
YEAH, BUT MY MOM DOESN'T LIKE ME TO CROSS MAIN STREET
SHE COMES UP WITH MY SIS TO MEET ME.
THAT'S THE WAY MOTHERS ARE; "DON'T DO THIS. DON'T DO THAT. AN' IF YOU DO, YOU'LL GET A LICKIN' WHEN YOUR FATHER GETS HOME."
YOU DO WHATCHA WANT, BUT YOU'RE DUMB IF YOU GO RIGHT HOME.
SEE YA LATER, DUMBHEAD!
YEAH.
SEE YA
THESE TRU-ADE CAPS ARE THE BESTEST!
BETCHA THIS IS PART OF THE LOST HILLS TREASURE MASON AND HIS BOYS BEEN TRYIN' TO GET THEIR HANDS ON!
HECK! EVEN MASON'S GOTTA BETTER COSTUME THAN THEM FLOWER SUITS THE NUNS MAKE US WEAR. THEY OUGHTTA GIVE US COWBOY COSTUMES! BLACK ONES! LIKE HOPALONG CASSIDY!
JEEZ! IT LOOKS LIKE THE TREASURE CHEST IS OPEN! THAT'S WHERE I SAW THEM FLASH GORDON PUZZLES! BOY, THEY WAS NEAT!
MOM DON'T HARDLY COME UP HERE ENOUGH, JUST THAT ONCE TO BUY CRAYONS FOR CHERYL.
DON'T TOUCH, LITTLE BOY!
THOSE PUZZLES COST 69¢, RANDY. WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY TO WASTE!

HEY! I COULD GO OVER THERE AN TAKE A LOOK AT THEM FLASH GORDON PUZZLES AGAIN
YEAH, BUT WHAT IF MOM'S WALKIN' UP TO MEET ME... MAYBE SHE'S JUST OUTTA SIGHT.
MOM'D NEVER KNOW!
YEAH! AN' THEN I COULD JUST CROSS BACK OVER... CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO CARS COMIN' OR NUTHIN.
NAH! SHE NEVER COMES EARLY, WHY D SHE DO IT NOW?
'SIDES, IT'S BAD ENUFF I GOTTA DRESS UP LIKE A FLOWER... I OUGHTTA GET SOMETHING OUT'VE IT:--
--AN' THERE STILL AIN'T NO CARS COMIN' YET. I LOOKED BOTH WAYS. IT'S LIKE A GHOST TOWN
ANYHOW LITTLE BOBBY MACKLEROY'S GONNA STAY OUT ALL AFTERNOON, NOT TELLIN' HIS MOM... AN' I'M ONLY CROSSIN' THE STREET FOR A MINUTE!
I'LL SNEAK A LOOK AT FLASH'S PUZZLES AN' THEN I'LL RUN RIGHT BACK ACROSS...
THAT'S NOT REAL BAD... LOTS'VE PEOPLE DO WORSE THINGS THAN THAT!

SO, I LOOK THIS WAY--
HAH!!
NOTHIN'! THIS'S EASY!
AND THEN I LOOK THIS WAY...
READY!
SET!
GO!
GO, PARD!
IF YOU EVER KICKED UP DUST, NOW'S THE TIME TO DO IT!
OH, GEEZ!
A PICK-UP TRUCK!
I WON'T NEVER MAKE IT!
PLEASE, GOD! IF YOU LET ME MAKE IT, I'LL NEVER CROSS THE ROAD AGAIN WITHOUT MOM!
I KNOW I DID WRONG, GOD! I REALLY DO!

NO!
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT! I BETTER GO BACK... AN' RUN LIKE HECK!
JESUS H. KEERIST!
NO GOOD, PARD! WE CAN'T MAKE IT BACK TO SAFETY, WE'RE DOOMED!
I BETTER TURN BACK AN' TRY N MAKE IT ALL THE WAY, PARD.
GO, BOY! GO FOR YOUR LIFE! WE GOTTA DO IT! WE GOTTA!
HEY, KID, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD'S NO PLACE TO RUN AROUND IN CIRCLES!
HOLD UP, PARD! HOLD UP!
I WAS WRONG! IT'S ALMOST ON US! WE CAN'T NEVER MAKE IT!
OUR ONLY CHANCE LEFT IS TO GO BACK!


SHIT!
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW? HE'S RUNNIN' RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
WAIT A MINNIT!
IT'S DEATH, PARD! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WHAT WOULD THE COPPERHEAD DO IF HE WAS IN A JAM LIKE THIS? HE'S ALWAYS IN A JAM!
I CAN DO WHAT COPPERHEAD DONE WHEN THEM CRUMBBUMS TRIED TA RUN HIM DOWN!
HE JUST LAID DOWN--YEAH!
AND THE TRUCK WENT RIGHT OVER HIM!

PLEASE, GOD.!
PLEASE LET IT WORK!
GOD ALMIGHTY.!
KID, WHAT IN THE NAME'VE GOD WERE YOU DOING?
I SWEAR YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND HERE LIKE A CHICKEN WITHOUT ITS HEAD.!
C'MON, KID! YOU'RE NOT GONNA DIE!
I WAS HARDLY MOVING, I HAD MY FOOT ON THE BRAKE..
I JUST DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GONNA RUN SMACK IN FRONT OF ME!
C'MON, KID.! STOP BAWLING.! YOU'RE GIVIN' ME A SPLITTIN' HEADACHE!
TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE!

LORD YOU GOT A SET OF LUNGS!
LISTEN, IF YOU STOP THAT CATERWAULING YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE.
YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, DONT'CHA?
HEY, PALUMBO, YOU KNOW THIS BOY?
YEAH, THAT'S LISA'S NUTTY KID. LIVES TWO HOUSES BACK.
I CANT FIND A DAMN THING WRONG WITH HIM.
YOU SHOULDN'T CURSE, DR. BABBIT. LITTLE PITCHERS HAVE BIG EARS.
BUT DEAR SWEET JESUS, YOU'RE SURE HE'S NOT GONNA DIE, DOCTOR? I JUST KNEW HE WAS GONNA DIE.
RANDY DONE BAD, Y'OUGHTA SEE SUMPIN' BAD ON HIM. I DON'T SEE NUFFIN'.
HE'S FIT AS A FIDDLE, LISA.
OH, LISA, YOU SHOULDN'T EVER LET HIM CROSS THE STREET BY HIMSELF.

RANDY, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO? THE MAN SAYS YOU GOT DOWN ON YOUR KNEES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.
YOU KIDS ARE GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF US.
PLEASE, TILDY.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, RANDY IS WHY YOU WERE RUNNING ACROSS THE STREET WHEN I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE ..
MOM, I WASN'T DOING NOTHIN' BAD! I DROPPED MY SCHOOL PAPERS, WHICH I GOT AN "A" ON... AN' THEY... THEY FLEW INTA THE STREET.
AN' THIS HURTS REAL BAD... I'M NOT FUNNIN' YA.
THAT'S A LIKELY STORY. "A'S," HUH? I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN THAT CLOSE YOUR EYES AND CALL IT A DAY, RANDY.
1976
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO IN, DAD. I HAVEN'T SEEN AUNT TILDY IN,.. JEEZ, MUST BE NINE, TEN YEARS ANYHOW.
LISTEN, RANDY, YOU DON'T THINK I COME HERE BECAUSE I ENVOY IT? MATILDA'S MY SISTER ...SHE'S HAD A STROKE... AND IT'S RIGHT HER FAMILY COMES TO VISIT HER.
IT WON'T HURT YOU TO SEE HER BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF. YOU'VE BEEN MOPIN' AROUND SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM THE CITY... MAYBE SEEING MATILDA'LL GET YOU OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF.
SEE THAT, BOYD?
DON'T NONE OF 'EM BELIEVE ME--
'CEPT'N YOU.
WHETHER IT'S A HOME OR A HOSPITAL, THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME SMELL, DON'T THEY?
THERE'S SOMETHING ... MORTAL ABOUT THAT SMELL IT'S ALWAYS KIND'VE SCARED ME. Y'KNOW, DAD... IT'S TAKEN ME THIRTY YEARS TO REALIZE I WOULDN'T GET THROUGH LIFE IMMUNE... THAT I WAS MORTAL.
THE SMELL GETS TO YOU THAT BAD, HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, RAND... YOU NEVER LEARNED TO ACCEPT THINGS... YOU GOT TO ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
LISTEN, I'M GOING TO GET FRESH LINEN FOR TILDY... HER ROOM'S TWO DOORS DOWN. YOU GO ON IN.

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES, HUH, DAD?
I GUESS I DON'T ROLL WITH IT ENOUGH. KIDS ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES... HA! AN' I THOUGHT I WAS STILL "THE KID!"
BOY, I HOPE AUNT TILDY DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD
HI, AUNT TILDY Uhhh... HOW ARE THEY TREATING YOU?
SAME! NO DAMN GOOD! WHO IS IT? IS THAT RANDY?
YEAH... IT'S ME... I... UHHH...
COME OVER TO ME, RANDY, THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BED. I CAN'T... THE LEFT SIDE... I KEEP TRYING... BUT IT WON'T MOVE.
I TRIED TO TELL RICHARD, YOUR FATHER... BUT HE DOESN'T LISTEN. THIS PLACE IS EATING UP ALL THE MONEY IT TOOK MY LIFETIME TO SAVE
YOU'VE GOT TO GET ME OUT OF HERE, RANDY.
I ...I CAN'T... DO THAT, AUNT TILDY. YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO STAY HERE ...WHERE THEY... WHERE THEY CAN TAKE GOOD CARE'VE YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN THEY YELL AT YOU FOR... FOR WETTING YOURSELF? NO, YOU DON'T.
OR IF YOU ...TOUCH YOURSELF DOWN THERE...
JEEZ, SHE'S TALKIN' ABOUT SOMETHIN' SEXUAL... I NEVER ONCE EVER HEARD HER EVEN HINT ANYTHING ABOUT SEX.
... THEY THINK YOU'RE OBSCENE.
WHAT THE HELL DO I SAY TO HER?
HNGH?
IF YOU DON'T TAKE ME OUT OF HERE...
I'LL DIE IN THIS BED.

THAT'S ..THAT'S NONSENSE, AUNT TILDY... THEY'VE GOT ... PROGRAMS HERE THAT'LL, ...YOU KNOW, WHERE THEY'LL REHABILI-TATE YOU.
HONEST
Bullshit
JESUS, DON'T SWEAR, AUNT TILDY. YOU'RE NOT NOT SUPPOSED TO SWEAR.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO SAY "BULLSHIT." HER EYES SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE... SHE KNOWS IT... AND SHE KNOWS I KNOW IT
GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE LYING AGAIN!
HUH? AGAIN?
WHEN THE TRUCK HIT YOU, YOU LIED. YOU DIDN'T TELL THE TRUTH... NOT THEN, NOT NOW.
THE TRUCK? WHAT TRUCK? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ABOUT WHY YOU... CROSSED THE GOD-DAMNED STREET.
AND NOW YOU'RE LYING ABOUT ME GETTING OUT OF THIS BED.
YOU'RE FULL OF SHIT, RANDY...
...JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
NO ONE WANTS A SICK OLD LADY
SHUT HER AWAY! FORGET HER! LET THE BLOODSUCKERS EAT UP ALL SHE EVER MADE...
AND LIE TO HER... KEEP HER...
.. HAPPY.
MAYBE SOMETIMES... IT'S JUST... THERE'S NO NEED TO... TO HURT PEOPLE MORE'N THEY'RE ALREADY HURT.
MAYBE LIES AREN'T THE BEST WAY... BUT THE TRUTH ... ONCE YOU'VE SAID IT... THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT TO SAY.
AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, AUNT TILDY... I'M NOT REAL SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHEN YOU BRING TRUCKS INTO THE WHOLE THING.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME. AT ALL.
NOT AT ALL.
fin.

THE ART OF STEVE DITKO

ON SALE IN JUNE

This is one of the most overdue and awaited art books in recent years! Steve Ditko — the creator of Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Captain Atom, Mr. A, The Creeper, Shade the Changing Man, The Question, and many other characters! Here is a survey of his entire career, in a HEAVILY ILLUSTRATED 136 page book, with 8 pages in COLOR, and examples of Ditko's art and story-telling techniques

Steve Ditko is co-operating in the book's research, and will receive royalties on every copy sold. We will print much obscure Ditko art taken either from original art, or publishers' archives. Three complete stories will be reprinted, including a hard-to-find 1950s Charlton classic! Also included will be a complete Ditko Checklist for collectors!

THE ART OF STEVE DITKO will be available in an 8½ x 11 trade paperback . . plus a limited edition hardcover. Each hardcover copy will contain a tipped-in color plate drawn especially for this book by Steve Ditko! This color plate will be SIGNED and NUMBERED by DITKO and will only be available in the hardcover. Trade paper: $10.95. Hardcover: $18.95. Please add $1.25 postage. Order now to receive a low numbered signed copy!

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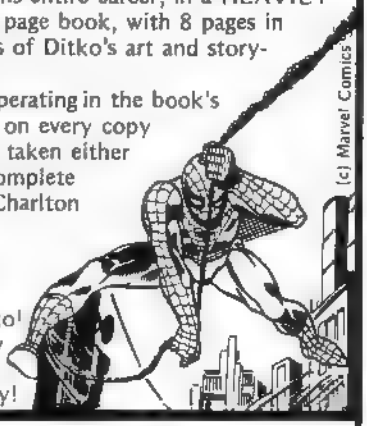

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WOMEN and the COMICS

by Trina Robbins and Catherine Yronwode

(c) Wendy Pini

Ethel Hays

(c) Rose O'Neill

Here is the DEFINITIVE book about women and the comics, written and edited by the two leading authorities in the field. Trina Robbins and Catherine Yronwode have spent three years doing research — interviewing female comics creators, uncovering rare newspaper and comic book art, and compiling a HEAVILY ILLUSTRATED 136 page book that finally gives due credit to the many women who've worked in comics for the last 80 years!

From the early days of newspaper strips, to the exciting "jungle girl" artists of the 1940s, on through Wendy Pini, Marie Severin and Jan Duursema, this book also presents for the first time anywhere, a checklist of all women known to have created comics!!

Rose O'Neill • Dale Messick • Tarpe Mills • Fanny Y. Cory • Marty Links • Nell Brinkley • Ann Brewster • Fran Hopper • Grace Drayton • Ethel Hays • Sharon Rudahl • Cathy Guisewite • Ruth Roche • Gladys Parker • Lynn Johnston • Ramona Fradon • Edwina Dumm • Lee Marrs • Nina Albright • Lela Dowling • Selby Kelly • Shary Flenniken • Nicole Hollander • Lilian Chestney • and many more.

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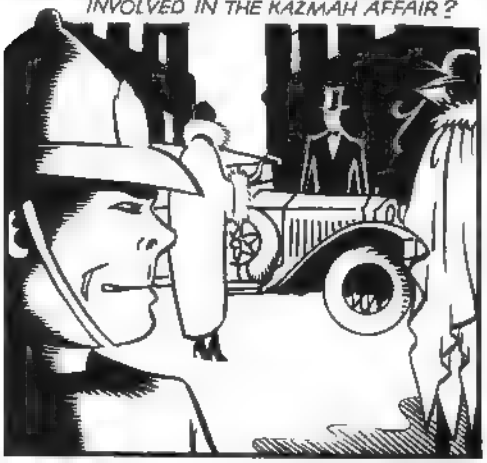
CHAPTER SEVEN
Mollie Gets Amorous
IT WAS CLOSE UPON MIDNIGHT WHEN CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY WALKED INTO THE ENTRANCE OF A POPULAR NIGHT CLUB IN WEST-END
Oh, WHAT A DELIGHTFULLY SAVAGE MAN.
HE LOOKS SO POSITIVELY UNCIVILIZED. I HAVE NO DOUBT HE DRAGS WOMEN ABOUT BY THEIR HAIR. I DO HOPE HE'S A MEMBER.
BOND STREET MURDER! LATE SPESHUL!
ARE YOU A MEMBER, SIR?
OH! GET ME A PAPER! BE QUICK! I AM SO EXCITED!
KERRY TOOK UP A PEN, AND IN LARGE BOLD HANDWRITING INSCRIBED ACROSS TWO PAGES OF THE VISITORS' BOOK
Chief Kerry. Investigation
IT'S INSPECTOR KERRY-- WHO IS IN CHARGE OF POOR LUCY'S MURDER! Oh, BILL, THIS IS LOVELY! SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

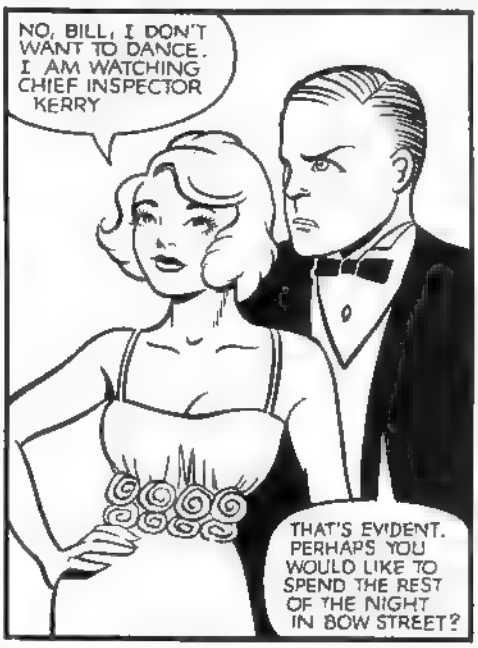
YOU'RE NOT GOING YET, DICKIE?
SSH! INSPECTOR KERRY IS HERE! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CALLED AS A WITNESS AT NASTY INQUESTS AND THINGS, DO YOU?
GOOD HEAVENS, MY DEAR, NO! BUT WHY SHOULD I BE?
WHY SHOULD ANY OF US? BUT DON'T YOU SEE THEY ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO USED TO GO TO KAZMAH'S?
WE SHALL ALL BE SERVED WITH SUBPOENAS
I'M OFF!

IT'S PERFECTLY RIDICULOUS TO SEND OUT A BALLY RED HEADED POLICEMAN TO LOOK FOR A CLEVER CRIMINAL.
KERRY IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL CROOKS, AND NO-BODY COULD MISTAKE HIM DAMN SILLY.

ALTHOUGH A POPULAR DANCE WAS ON THE POINT OF COMMENCING, SEVERAL VISITORS HAD SUDDENLY DETERMINED TO LEAVE KERRY PRETENDED TO BE IGNORANT OF THE SENSATION WHICH HIS APPEARANCE HAD CREATED

KERRY'S OPEN SCRUTINY WAS A DELIBERATE POLICY HE HAD BEEN IN THE NIGHT CLUB ONLY TEN MINUTES, BUT DURING THAT TIME FULLY A DOZEN PEOPLE HAD HURRIEDLY DEPARTED. THE ADDRESSES OF THESE DEPARTING VISITORS WOULD BE IN KERRY'S POSSESSION ERE THE NIGHT WAS MUCH OLDER AND WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE FLED, IF NOT FOR THE REASON THAT THEY FEARED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE KAZMAH AFFAIR?




NO, BILL, I DON'T WANT TO DANCE. I AM WATCHING CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY
THAT'S EVIDENT. PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT IN BOW STREET?

Oh, I SHOULD LOVE IT! IF EVER I AM ARRESTED, I HOPE IT WILL BE BY CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY. I AM POSITIVE HE WOULD HAUL ME AWAY IN HAND-CUFFS!

KERRY'S GENIUS POSSESSED DEFINITE LIMITATIONS. EVEN ONE FAMILIAR WITH CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY MIGHT BE FORGIVEN FOR FAILING TO DETECT GUILT IN A WOMAN ANXIOUS TO MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING MARGARET HALLEY CALLED UPON MOLLIE GRETNA
MY DEAR MISS HALLEY HOW PERFECTLY SWEET OF YOU TO COME TO SEE ME!
OF COURSE I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU HAVE CALLED ABOUT OH! POOR DARLING LITTLE RITA! WHAT CAN HAVE BECOME OF HER?

SO DEEP DID HER GRIEF SEEM TO BE THAT ONE WOULD NEVER HAVE SUSPECTED THAT SHE HAD SPENT THE GREATER PART OF THE NIGHT PLAYING BRIDGE AND FROM THENCE HAD PROCEEDED TO A "BREAKFAST DANCE"

GOD KNOWS IN WHOSE HANDS SHE IS ONE SHUDDERS TO CONTEMPLATE HER TORTURE.
Oh, DON'T! PLEASE DON'T! IF ONLY I COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP!
PERHAPS YOU CAN. YOU KNEW ALL RITA'S FRIENDS. YOU MUST HAVE MET A WOMAN CALLED Mrs SIN?

Mrs SIN? WHAT ABOUT Mrs SIN?

THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT THROUGH Mrs SIN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TRACE KAZMAH; AND WHEREVER KAZMAH IS ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND POOR RITA
NO ONE KNOWS WHO KAZMAH IS.

BUT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SEEM TO KNOW Mrs SIN. I AM SURE YOU MUST HAVE MET HER?
IF I SAY THAT I KNOW HER, SHALL I BE CALLED AS A WITNESS?
CERTAINLY NOT I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THAT

I REALLY DON'T THINK I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, MISS HALLEY
I HAVE CERTAINLY MET Mrs SIN BUT I KNOW NOTHING WHATEVER ABOUT HER EXCEPT I BELIEVE SHE IS A JEWESS.
THEIR GLANCES MET; AND MARGARET READ HOSTILITY IN THE SHALLOW EYES
GOOD-BYE, MISS GRETNA I AM SO SORRY YOU CANNOT HELP
AND SO AM I! IT IS PERFECTLY SWEET OF YOU TO TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST, AND I FEEL A POSITIVE WORM. BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
ERE MARGARET HAS PROGRESSED A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE DOOR, MOLLIE WAS AT THE TELEPHONE
LISTEN, ARCHIE! YOU CAN GET TO KNOW ANYTHING AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT THE PRIVATE ADDRESS OF CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY. I MUST KNOW IN HALF AN HOUR. YES, I SHALL BE SEEING YOU TONIGHT. GOOD BYE
THE APPEARANCE OF A VIOLET-ENAMELLED MOTOR CAR UPHOLSTERED IN CREAM, AND DRIVEN BY A CHAUFFEUR IN VIOLET AND CREAM LIVERY, CREATED SOME SENSATION IN SPENSER ROAD, S.E
KERRY, WHO HAD BEEN AT WORK UNTIL DAWN, WAS SLEEPING, BUT Mrs KERRY ADMITTED THE DAZZLING VISITOR
DID YE WISH TO SEE CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY PARTICULARLY?
Oh, MOST PARTICULARLY!
AYE, 'TWILL BE YON BOND STREET AFFAIR?
Oh, YES, IT IS, Mrs. KERRY DOESN'T THE VERY NAME OF BOND STREET TURN YOUR BLOOD COLD? I AM SIMPLY SHIVERING WITH FEAR!

SHORTLY AFTER MARY KERRY WITHDREW, KERRY CAME IN, HE HAD ARISEN AND COMPLETED HIS TOILET IN SEVERAL SECONDS LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES
VERY GOOD OF YOU TO OFFER INFORMATION, MISS I'M WILLING TO ADMIT THAT I CAN DO WITH IT.
Oh, INSPECTOR, I KNOW YOU WILL THINK ME SIMPLY AN APPALLING PERSON WHEN I TELL YOU, BUT I HAVE BEEN TO Mrs SIN'S HOUSE THE HOUSE OF A HUNDRED RAPTURES, SHE CALLS IT
THE ADDRESS?

HOWEVER CAN I TELL YOU THE ADDRESS, INSPECTOR? I COULD DRIVE YOU THERE, BUT I HAVEN'T THE HAZIEST NOTION OF THE NAME OF THE HORRIBLE STREET!
ONE DRIVES ALONG DREADFUL ROADS WHERE THERE ARE STALLS AND JEWS FOR QUITE SOME TIME, THEN OVER A CANAL AND ROUND TO THE RIGHT ALL AMONG SHIPS AND HORRID CHINAMEN.
THERE IS A DOORWAY IN A LITTLE COURT AND Mrs SIN'S HUSBAND SITS INSIDE A SMELLY ROOM WITH A POSITIVELY FEROCIOUS RAVEN WHO SHRIEKS ABOUT LEGS AND POLICEMEN!

ONE MOMENT, MISS WHAT IS THE NAME OF Mrs SIN'S HUSBAND?
Oh, LET ME THINK! SIN SIN AH, SIN SIN JAR.. SIN SIN- oh! I HAVE IT! SIN SIN WA!

GOOD! AND HE HAS A PET RAVEN, YOU SAY, WHO TALKS?
WHO POSITIVELY TALKS LIKE SOME HORRID OLD WOMAN!
HE HAS ONLY ONE EYE
THE RAVEN?
THE RAVEN, YES -- AND ALSO THE CHINAMAN.

Oh, INSPECTOR -- I CAN SEE THAT YOU THINK I AM FABULOUSLY WICKED!
SHALL I BE ARRESTED?
PROBABLY NOT, MISS. BUT YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO GIVE EVIDENCE. SHALL YOU OBJECT?

NOT IF I CAN BE OF THE SLIGHTEST ASSISTANCE TO YOU, INSPECTOR!
AND SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A PEER!

THERE WERE SEVERAL DETAILS WHICH WERE BY NO MEANS CLEAR, BUT HE DECIDED TO ACT UPON THE INFORMATION ALREADY GIVEN AND TO GET RID OF HIS VISITOR WITHOUT DELAY.
I AM MUCH INDEBTED TO YOU, MISS.
Oh, IT HAS BEEN DELIGHTFUL TO CONFESS TO YOU, INSPECTOR! I SHALL EXPECT YOU TO COME TO ME FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT.
HE ESCORTED MOLLIE TO HER CAR OBSERVED BY NO LESS THAN SIX DISCREETLY HIDDEN NEIGHBORS
IF I HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TO COURT, YOU WILL FETCH ME, WON'T YOU?
RELY UPON ME, MISS.
YON'S A BAD WOMAN
I BELIEVE YOU MAY BE RIGHT, MARY.
I KENNED IT FIRST WHEN I SET EYES UPON HER PAINTED FACE. I KENNED IT NOW WHEN SHE LOOKED SIDEWAYS AT YE.
IF YON'S A GRAND LADY, THE LORD GIVE US GRACE.

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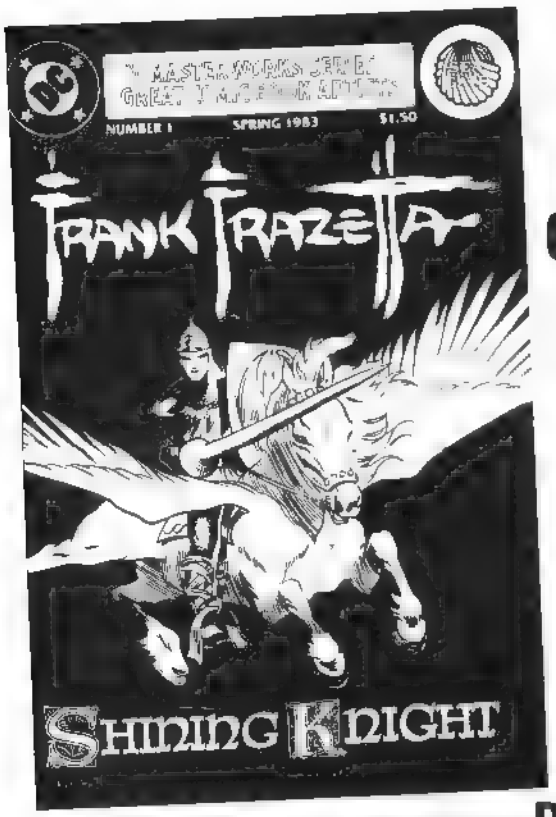

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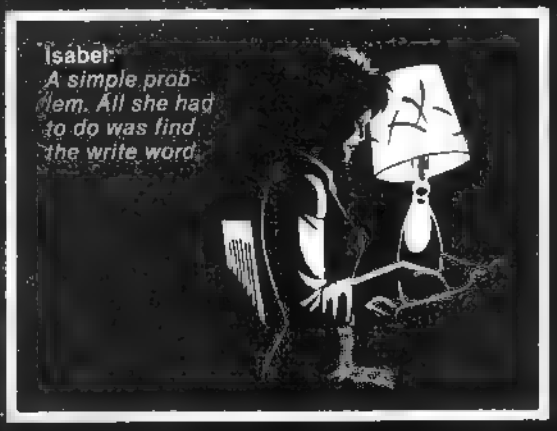

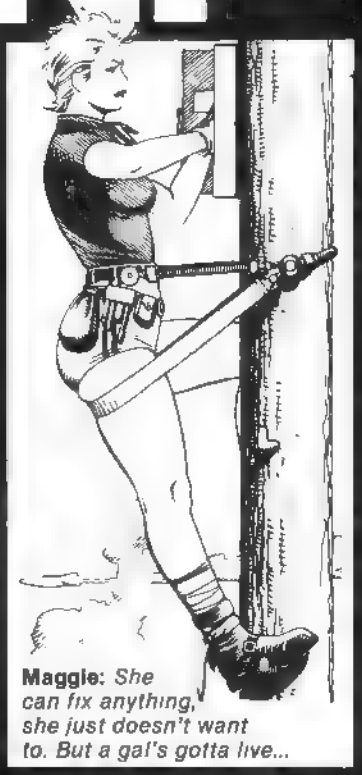

Maggie: *She can fix anything, she just doesn't want to. But a gal's gotta live...*

Castle Radium: *He's not a woman!*

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I AM Coyote
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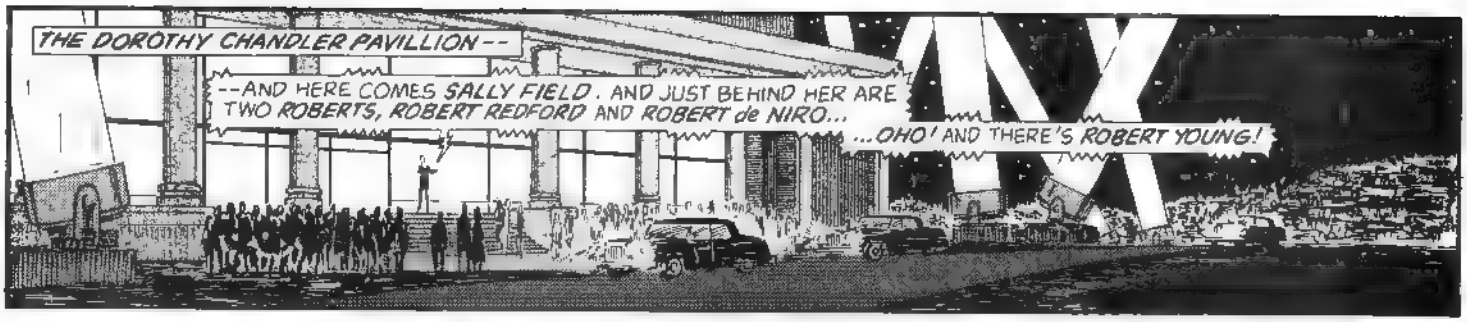
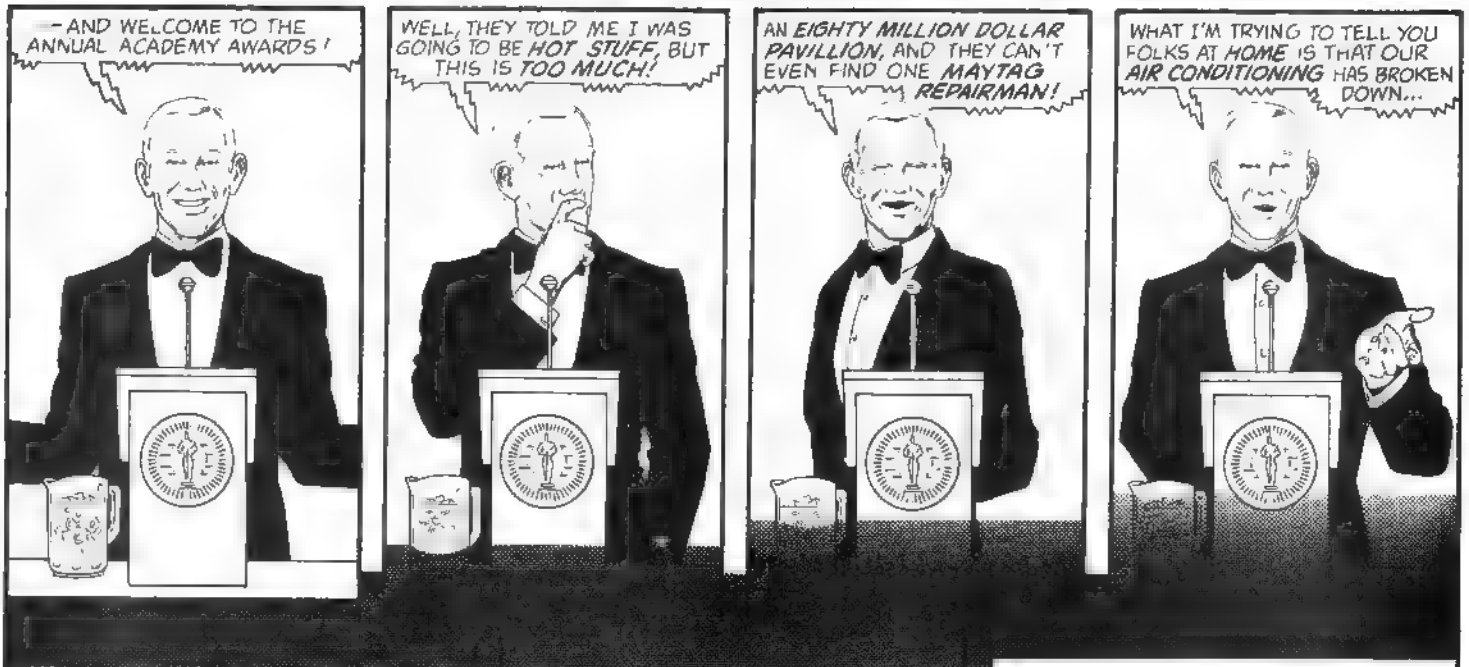
lettered by P Bernard Jr.
--MORE ANIMAL THAN MAN! I WAS BORN IN THE DESERT, GREW TO MANHOOD IN THE DESERT-- SO I KNEW LITTLE OF CIVILIZATION BEFORE I CAME TO LAS VEGAS!
THERE I ENCOUNTERED THE SHADOW CABINET, A DARK CONCLAVE OF MILITANTS WHO SEEK TO OVERTHROW THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, AND THERE I MET THEIR LOCAL LEADER-- THE WOMAN PHYLLIDA WEST!
PERHAPS I WAS NAIVE, TO THINK THAT I MIGHT LOVE HER WHILE BATTLING HER EMPLOYERS; BUT EVENTS CONSPIRED TO MAKE MY PRIMAL DREAMS COME TRUE! AND SHE CAME TO LOVE ME IN RETURN, BRINGING DOWN THE WRATH OF HER CHIEFTAN, A GHOSTLY CREATURE CALLED -- THE VOID!
I WAS SLY AND, OH, SO WEARY -- I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER LOVE WITHOUT MANY TESTS! BUT NOW I KNOW HER FEELINGS ARE TRUE -- SO TONIGHT, HERE IN HOLLYWOOD, I WILL SMASH THE VOID'S VILE PLAN, AND THEN I WILL KILL HIM FOR PHYLLI!
KILL HIM-- FOR MY LOVE!


THE DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILLION--
--AND HERE COMES SALLY FIELD. AND JUST BEHIND HER ARE TWO ROBERTS, ROBERT REDFORD AND ROBERT de NIRO...
...OHO! AND THERE'S ROBERT YOUNG!

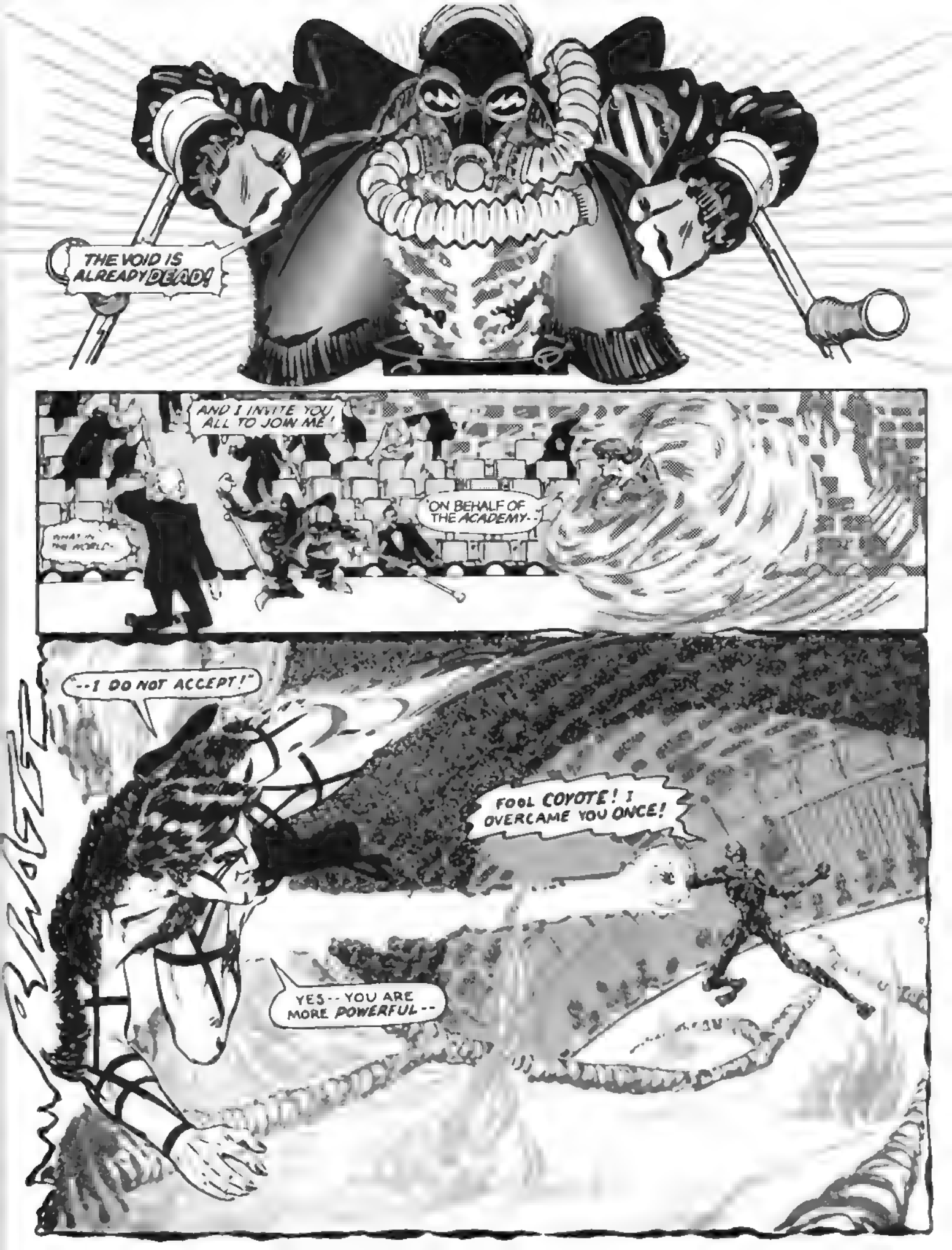

--AND WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS!
WELL, THEY TOLD ME I WAS GOING TO BE HOT STUFF, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
AN EIGHTY MILLION DOLLAR PAVILLION, AND THEY CAN'T EVEN FIND ONE MAYTAG REPAIRMAN!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU FOLKS AT HOME IS THAT OUR AIR CONDITIONING HAS BROKEN DOWN...

--AND SO, WITH THE AWARD FOR THE BEST PICTURE, WE BRING TO A CLOSE ANOTHER YEAR IN FILM! IN SOME WAYS--
--IN MANY WAYS--
--IT'S BEEN ONE OF OUR BEST YEARS, WHILE--
--SIMULTANEOUSLY SETTING BOX--
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO THE MICROPHONE?!

FIRST THE AIR CONDITIONING, NOW THE AUDIO! WHAT'S WITH THE BACK-UP SYSTEMS?
IT'S NOT JUST AUDIO, HARRY! OUR WHOLE FEED IS GONE!
WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF ENTIRELY!
HEY HARRY, WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CESSATION OF TRANSMISSION!
A SERIOUS CRIME WAS ATTEMPTED HERE TONIGHT, AND IT WAS THWARTED -- BUT THE RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE VIOLENT--
WHO THE...?
--AND I BELIEVE THE WORLD IS WEARY OF REAL-LIFE VIOLENCE APPEARING IN THEIR LIVING ROOMS! I FELT OBLIGED TO... "PULL THE PLUG"!
CRIME? WHAT CRIME?
LAST NIGHT AN EXTRAORDINARY CRIMINAL - KNOWN ONLY AS THE VOID-- SUBSTITUTED OSCARS MADE OF DEADLY PLUTONIUM FOR THE REAL ONES--
BUT THIS AFTERNOON, I FOUND THE REAL ONES, AND SWITCHED THEM BACK!
HAD I NOT DONE SO, NEARLY EVERYONE HERE WOULD ALREADY BE DYING!
REALLY? --
--THAT'S FASCINATING, MISTER--uh--
HIS NAME IS MUD, JOHNNY!
NO SUDDEN MOVES, FRIEND!

WATCH OUT! HE'S MOV-- --BEHIND YOU!
UMPH!
HELLO, VOID! I KNEW YOU WOULD SHOW YOURSELF, IF I DID!
GOOD EVENING--COYOTE!
YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU NOW!
unnhh
YOU AND THAT TRAITOR PHYLLIDA HAVE ABORTED THE WORK OF MONTHS! YOU HAVE SET BACK MY PLANS BY YEARS!
FOR THAT--AND DESPITE ALL YOUR POWERS- YOU WILL DIE!
HIS VOICE--SO COLD! THAT "COYOTE" ISN'T THE MENACE, AFTER ALL!
THIS CHARACTER--WAS!
KRAK KRAK
SOOKINSIN!
YOU CANNOT KILL THE VOID!


THE VOID IS ALREADY DEAD!
AND I INVITE YOU ALL TO JOIN ME!
WHAT IN THE WORLD--
"ON BEHALF OF THE ACADEMY--"
"--I DO NOT ACCEPT!"
FOOL COYOTE! I OVERCAME YOU ONCE!
YES--YOU ARE MORE POWERFUL--

-- BUT COYOTE IS SLY!
IN MY MAGNIFICENCE, I ALONE KNEW THE MEANING OF THE GREAT HEAT IN THIS HALL!
YOUR "MAGNIFICENCE!" THIS REALM INFLAMES YOU, DOG!
PHYLLI TOLD ME YOU WOULD COME TO SEE THE CLIMAX OF YOUR SCHEME--
--AND AS SOON AS I LEARNED OF THE FAILURE IN THE CONDITIONED AIR, I KNEW SHE HAD BEEN RIGHT!
YOU'RE LESS THAN A DOG! YOU'RE A MANGY IMITATION OF A DOG--

--A BASTARD CROSS-BREED!
AND I AM MOST SLY!
THE WATER PITCHER--!
Oh my God--
Phewww
PHYLLI SAID YOU STAYED IN THE DESERT BECAUSE YOU DETESTED PEOPLE--
--BUT ONE LOOK AT YOUR HEAT-ABSORBING CLOTHES AND I KNEW IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE CHILL IN YOUR DEAD SOUL!
COLD WAS YOUR ENEMY, VOID--THE DEEP, DARK COLD OF THE FINAL ABYSS! I TOLD PHYLLI--
-AND WE IMMEDIATELY SAW WHAT COULD BE DONE WITH--PLAIN ICE!

YOUR TURNING ON HER WAS A BAD MISTAKE!
KRAK
UNNGHH!!
LOOK OUT! SHE'S GOT A GUN!
HE HEARS THE WORDS THROUGH A TUNNEL OF MUD--BUT HE HEARS THEM!
DROP HIM! I DON'T NEED TO KILL YOU, BUT I WILL!
HE HEARS HER VOICE, THOUGH HE HAS PRAYED TO THE GREAT SPIRIT THAT HE WOULD NOT!
SORRY.
I'M SORRY--!
BUT HE DOES NOT FALL!
HIS MIND IS CLOUDED, HIS BODY AFLAME--
- BUT HE STILL STANDS!

AND HE STRAIGHTENS!
HELLO PHYLLI!
THE ORGANIZATION STILL EXISTS, COYOTE! THE SHADOW CABINET--!
THE VOID WANTED TO KILL ME, SO HE HAD TO GO--
--AND YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO IT--
I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME, PHYLLI!
LOVE! YOU'RE THE ONE WITH NO MORALS! DID YOU THINK YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE?
IT'S THE ONES WHO KNOW THE LEAST ABOUT LOVE WHO FALL THE HARDEST!
I FELT THAT YOU LOVED ME, PHYLLI!
I ENJOYED MYSELF, COYOTE! THIS WEEK WAS FUN! BUT WHAT'S THAT AGAINST ALL THE FUTURE?
I'M ON TOP NOW! THE SHADOW CABINET IS MINE--
CLICK
STAY RIGHT STILL!
I'M WARNING YOU, COYOTE! I WON'T PULL MY PUNCHES THIS TIME-
DON'T MOVE!
DON'T MOVE, I SAID!
KRAK
WHAT--?
HE DODGED--!
KRAK

KRAK
BUT HE'S GOT TWO BULLETS IN HIM--!
GRRR
GRRR

HE'S HURT, [illegible] A DOCTOR!
PHYLL!
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER
--IF LOVE WERE NOT A DANCER'S DREAM
WAIT--!
DOCTOR
NO
I AM Coyote
COYOTE WILL RETURN IN HIS OWN EPIC COMIC - WATCH FOR HIM!

Here it comes...

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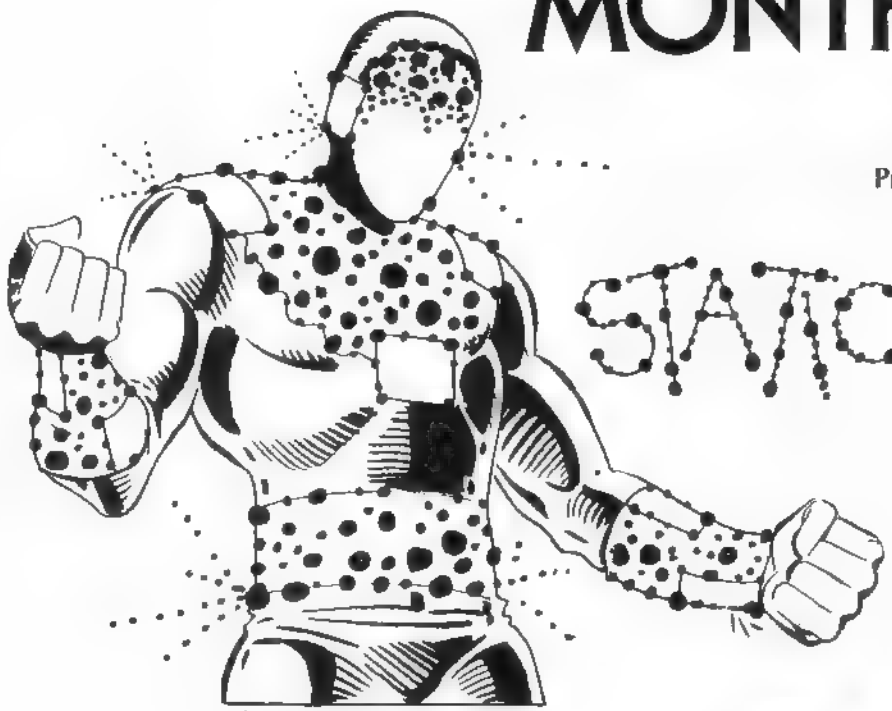

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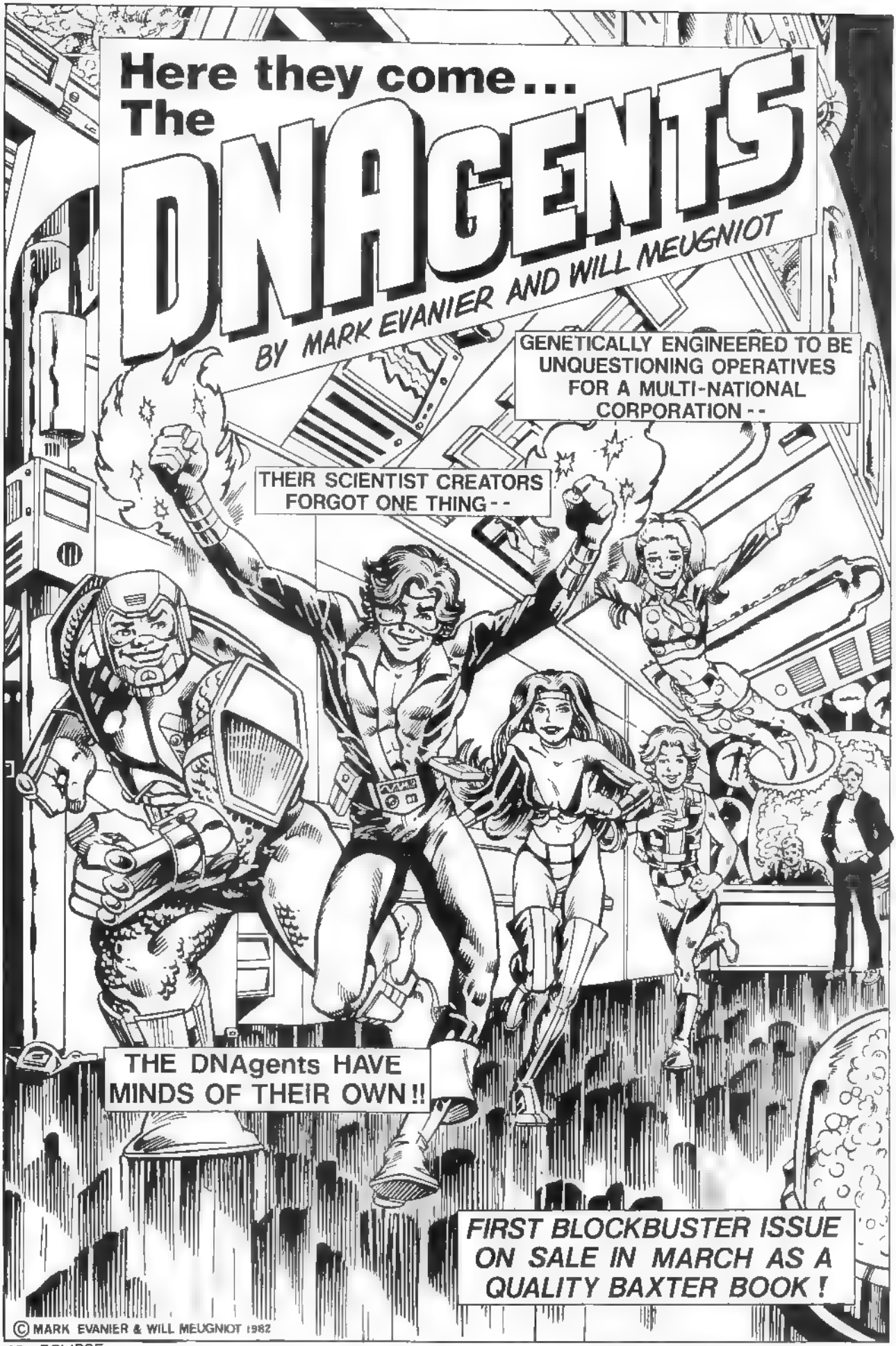
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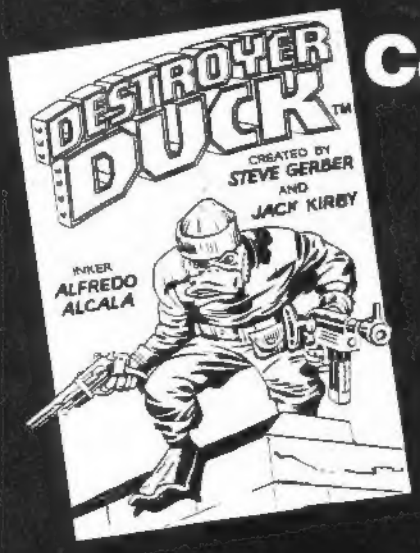

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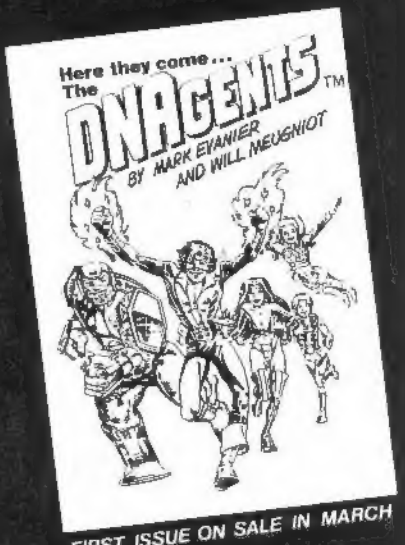

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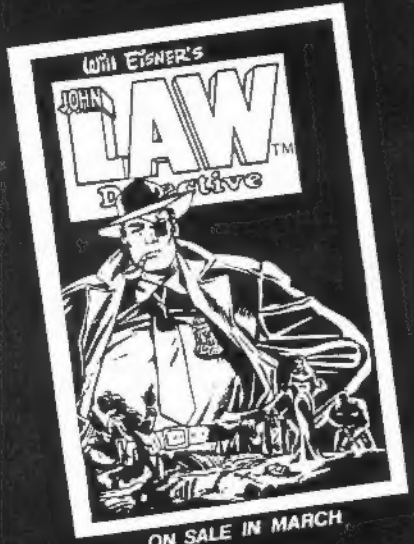

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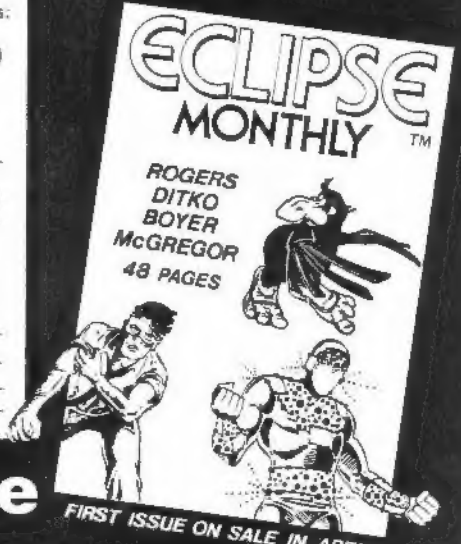

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CONTRIBUTORS

BOURGEOIS

JAMES BOURGEOIS is a Kansas City, Missouri based writer/artist who has produced a good number of comic strips, and who was the co-publisher of, and a major contributor to, two issues of *Big City Comix*.

BOYER

B. C. BOYER runs his own business during the day and is a mild-mannered comcis writer and artist by night. B. C.'s *Masked Man* series will continue in *Eclipse Monthly*, and his non-superpowered hero group, *The Incredible Seven*, appears in the back pages of *Sabre*.

COLAN

GENE COLAN remains firmly entrenched as one of the true giants in the comic art field. His work at DC Comics currently includes *Night Force* and he is working with Don McGregor on a mini-series called *Nathaniel Dusk*. Gene will continue on *Ragamuffins* with Don.

ENGLEHART

STEVE ENGLEHART continues the adventures of Coyote with artist Steve Leialoha in the soon-to-be-released *Coyote* series from Epic Comics. Steve's *Sundancer* mini-series with Marshall Rogers is in the preliminary work stages and will follow the completion of *Scorpio Rose*.

McGREGOR

DON McGREGOR continues to surprise his readers with the diversity of his creations. In addition to *Sabre*, Don will also continue *Ragamuffins* and other stories in *Eclipse Monthly*. Further, his new detective hero, Nathaniel Dusk, will appear in late 1983 from DC Comics.

ORZECHOWSKI

TOM ORZECHOWSKI letters every chapter of *Dope*. He also designed the Eclipse logo and colophon. He will also be lettering the continuation of *Coyote* in between working on issues of *Destroyer Duck, The X-Men, Dreadstar, Scorpio Rose* and others.

PRATT

GEORGE PRATT works primarily in the fantasy and science fiction vein of comics art and illustration. His work has appeared in *Eclipse* and will soon be seen in *Epic Illustrated*. He also produced, with Kent Williams, the well-received magazine, *Darkstorm*.

RIPPEE

LARRY RIPPEE is a San Francisco based cartoonist whose strips have appeared in many magazines and comics. Most recently, he contributed to Leonard Rifas' *Food First Comics*, and has begun teaching animation in the alternative school systems in the Bay area.

ROBBINS

TRINA ROBBINS will be coloring the final three chapters of her adaptation of Sax Rohmer's *Dope*, and promises all you *Dope* fiends out there that you will not be let down. We all realize that once you've tried *Dope*, you've got to have more and more ... and more!

ROGERS

MARSHALL ROGERS is keeping himself very busy these days with the *Scorpio Rose* mini-series, and his latest creation — Cap'n Quick, who teams up with a not-so-new creation of Marshall's — The Foozle in (naturally) *Cap'n Quick & the Foozle*, appearing in *Eclipse Monthly*.

VARLEY

LYNN VARLEY colored this issue's cover and has recently become one of the most sought-after colorists in the field. She collaborated previously with Marshall on his *Bat-Man* portfolio, and her work will soon be seen in Frank Miller's *Ronin* and Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg*.

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